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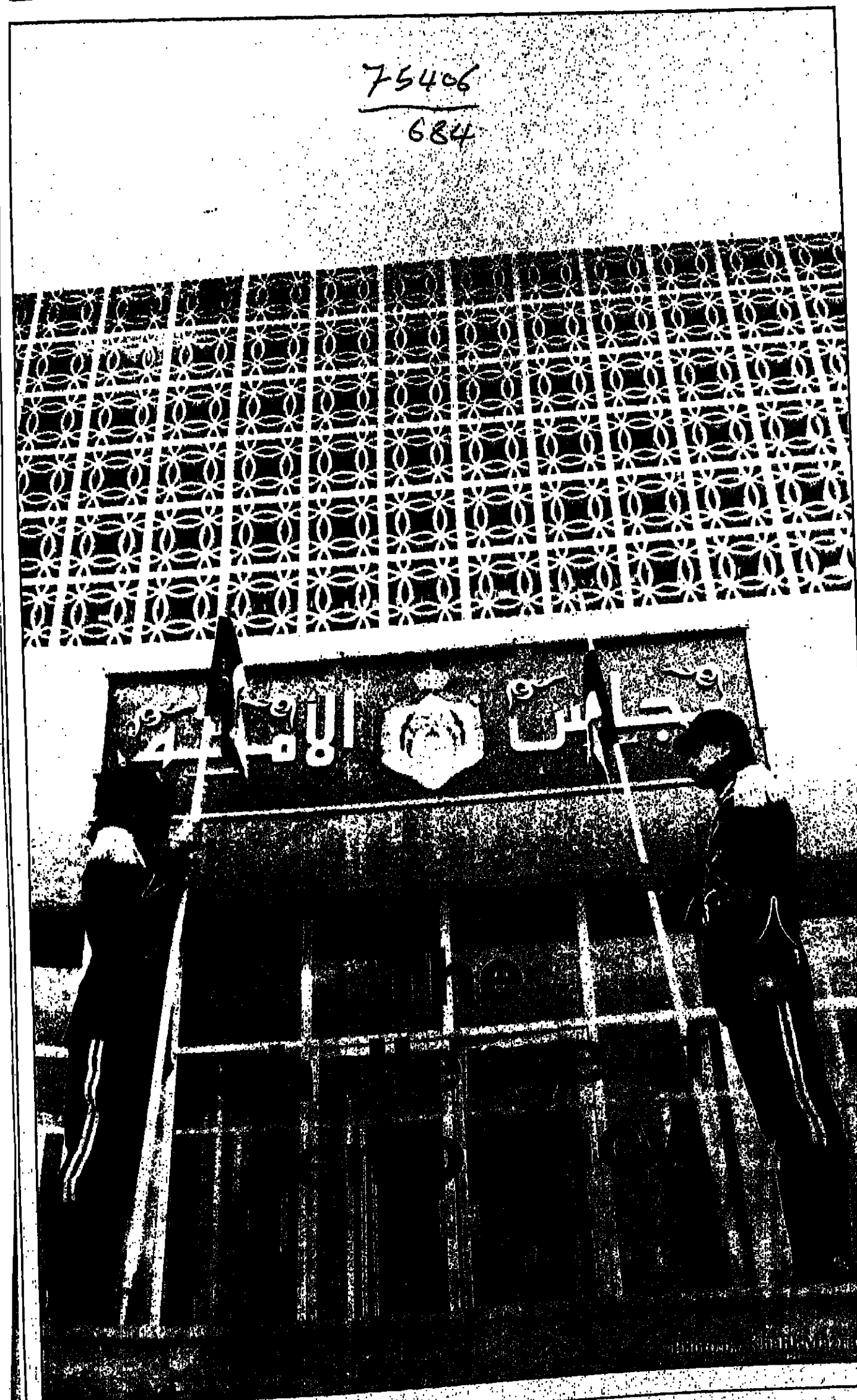
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684



No more demands !
An Interview with Speaker
Arar, page 4



'...just a regulator'
Minister of Information re-
veals the new function of his
ministry, page 3



**If peace prospects
diminish!**
Mohammed Milhem talks to
The Star about the changes in
the PLO from a 10-year per-
spective, page 24

King says incidents at confrontation line aim at creating instability

AMMAN (Star) - His Majesty King Hussein has said that a new situation has evolved at the confrontation line between Jordan and Israel and that this situation was born out of Israeli aggressions aimed at creating instability at this particular time.

Talking to reporters on Monday during the Kingdom's celebrations of Arbor Day, King Hussein said that Jordan is investigating each of these aggression acts, and is trying to figure out their exact implications.

Al-Saudi leaves Amman after opening ABC bank

Amman (Star) - Chief Executive Officer of the Arab Banking Corp. (ABC), left Amman for Manama Tuesday after a several-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Hussein. He attended the opening of the ABC bank (Jordan). See story P 9.

These incidents have objectives that aim at more than just limited operations against Jordan, and more than one party could be participating in launching them, the King said.

Commenting on the project of the Ministry of Agriculture route to Aqaba, King Hussein said that it was a "special moment for him and for every Jordanian" to be taking part in realising the slogan of "Greening Jordan by the Year 2000."

King Hussein stressed the need for exerting continuous efforts towards protecting trees in Jordan saying that it was not difficult to realise the goal of greening Jordan.

"Duty calls on all of us to be loyal to the land which we will sacrifice our souls for" and increase efforts for providing clean and green environment for the future generations.



GREENING JORDAN: His Majesty King Hussein Monday plants a tree at Al-Jizeh near the Queen Alia International Airport on the occasion of Jordan's celebrations of Arbor Day. This year's celebrations are held under the slogan of "Greening The Kingdom by the year 2000." An Ambitious Ministry of Agriculture project aims at greening the 300 kilometre route to Aqaba from Amman. Different departments and organisations are joining hands to help implement this project.

On the record

● The Jordanian government has expelled a number of Canadian experts working on the Unity dam on Yarmouk River for not complying with the technical standards of the projects.

● The government has decided to buy a new embassy in Paris for the price of 36 million French Francs. The owner of the building currently occupied by the embassy has meanwhile filed a suit against the embassy for incurring some damage on the building.

● The Foreign Ministry has decided to close down a number of its embassies and to freeze building new ones in a bid to reduce public expenditure. Embassies of Iraq, Egypt and Yemen will oversee Jordanian interests in countries where Jordan has no diplomatic representation.

Badran ends visit to Iraq

Amman (Star) - Prime Minister Mudar Badran returned home from Baghdad Wednesday where he led Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Higher Ministerial Committee of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

The two-day meetings resulted in the signing of 12 co-operation agreements among the four member states of the ACC.

Earlier on Monday Mr Badran met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Hussein. The message dealt with bilateral relations and other issues of mutual concern.



Badran

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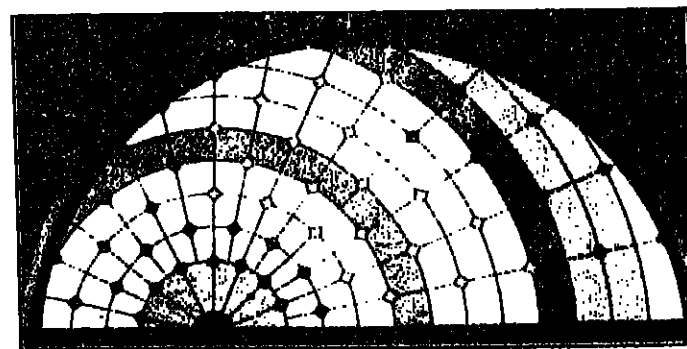
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Jordan's democratic experiment

'No longer an exercise...'

The Ministry of Information is no longer an organ for guidance, but a regulator of professions related to information. There can be no democracy without political parties and no parties without their own newspapers, and while the Ministry of Information will not be abolished, an internal debate is going inside with Minister Ibrahim Izziddin making his voice heard. The soft-spoken former diplomat has, in the words of many observers, "revolutionised" Jordan's information set-up in less than a month. But this is only the tip of the iceberg. The Star's Chief Editor Osama El-Sherif interviewed him this week. Following is the full text of the interview.

Q: How would you describe the role and philosophy of the Ministry of Information in Jordan today?

A: The Ministry of Information is a cabinet post that is mostly preserved in the developing countries and it is not a post that is held in European democracies, where they have built their information institutions in a different manner. There, the press is free but organised, it is free within the law and there are many laws which protect the people and balance the freedom of the press with the freedom of the individual without infringement on his human rights.

I think if we can reach a medium between the two set-ups, we would be safe in a country like Jordan where we are moving fast towards liberalising our system and towards democratising our institutions. I can say that the perception and attitude of the Ministry has already changed. It is not a ministry of guidance but a ministry that would regulate the professions which deal with information in this country. even the laws will be subjected to real modifications and will be reassessed in so many ways.

With this very broad line we are going to study every department that is attached to the Ministry with the intention of making it more functional, more professional and more independent. But it is premature to say what the result of the study will be. I can tell you that the Ministry is not going to be abolished, but the nature, the job, the function of the Ministry has already changed and I think it will change even more in the future.



Minister Izziddin: Chief editors have full control

I believe licencing newspapers would be very much influenced by the birth of political parties because one would suppose that every political party would like to have a newspaper of its own. So really one would like to have some sort of a package study in which to see how many parties are going to be in this country and how many newspapers would the market allow. Only then I think it would be a wise thing for the government to have

represent the government's trusts and funds. You have members of the unions and the chambers of commerce and industries. So the whole structure has changed, but of course the issue will be studied.

Q: What about the Press and Journalists' Association laws now that they will be reviewed by the Lower House. Have you prepared a draft law or how will you deal with the proposed changes in these laws?

A: What I am going to do is to give the Press Law which is going to be reviewed - and the government has committed itself to reviewing it - to all the editors

in order to study it and to give me their recommendations. I am going to send every one the law with a letter asking him to review it and to give me substantive remarks. Also I will choose lawyers who have connections with the press. So in a matter of two weeks I hope I will be having their reactions and from there we can start comparing with other laws in different countries

Q: Have you begun receiving applications for licences to publish dailies or weeklies?

A: Yes, we have started to receive some applications, but we haven't debated the matter on the government level and of course these decisions have to be taken not on departmental but governmental level, but I can tell you that this country is seeing the organisation of a political structure in a new manner and I think that we are going to witness the birth of political parties in the future.

which have similar conditions. We have to have a convincing law that would protect the press and the individual as well.

Q: Do you see the new law giving journalists free access to government documents and related information?

A: I don't think we have this problem like in Europe or the United States where access to government documents is not possible until it is released periodically. The machinery of government in Jordan is not very complicated and when we talk about releasing information we are talking about big powers especially about the complexity of their relations with each other. In Jordan I think we don't have a problem in releasing information every 30 or 40 years, in fact this would give us the opportunity to have better documentation, which I think needs to be done more professionally for future generation's sake.

Q: Do you expect to see a clash between the government and the deputies over the budget law or any other issue especially if the government is not seen as fulfilling the promises it made when it won a vote of confidence?

A: I would not categorise what had happened in the parliament as a clash at all. I would say that our parliament is like any other parliament in the world where the government is on one side and many MPs would be usually on another side even if they, in one way or another, share many views with the government. This is the nature of many democratic institutions. You just can't expect any MP to endorse what the government is presenting because the nature of his function is to demand more from the government and sometimes be very critical. He (the MP) represents a constituency and he is elected to make the balance as a representative of the legislative power. There are general debates and during any political debate in any parliament you will find differences in opinions and that's very healthy and very helpful because it gives the people and the government the pulse of the nation. I think it is very good to hear different opinions because you don't have to worry that there are undercurrents in the country. Now you have it all in the open.

The other function of the parliament is law-making and law-making is a very professional thing. I don't think you will have a great debate about it with the exception of certain laws that have bearing on financial matters and on certain aspects of the society.

As you said the government has given so many pledges and promises and I know that they

Continued on page 16

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY RISHA GAS POWER STATION

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER AVAILABILITY FOR GENERATOR TRANSFORMERS TENDER NO. 53/89

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Tender Document, No. 53/89 is available for purchase as of 17 January 1990.

The Tender consists of Manufacturing and supply of two (2) Generator Transformers 11/132 K.v 45 MVA. The Supplier shall provide Supervision during erection and Commissioning.

Sealed Tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary of JEA Tendering committee before 10.00 a.m. Amman Time, 17 March 1990 at the JEA office in Amman.

Tender Documents are available at the address given below for a nonrefundable fee of JD 50 payable to JEA for each set of the Tender Documents.

Jordan Electricity Authority
Jabal Amman - 7th Circle
Post Office Box 2310
Amman, Jordan
Telex: 21259 JEASAK
Fax No. 818336.

The parliament moves into new phase

No more demands !

Question: Prime Minister Mudar Badran described the confidence session as "three difficult days", but observers said it (the session) was "essential" to the success of the democratic process in the country. What is your comment on that?

Answer: I believe that there is no contradiction between the two descriptions. The attack which some of my colleagues waged against the government, as if it was in office during the last few years, was extremely strong. But the tolerance and the patience and the reply of Prime Minister Mudar Badran were necessary (to the success of the process).

And had it not been for the Prime Minister's wish to see this experiment succeed (he) would not have put up with some of the speeches that attacked his person.

(In the session), as you see, was characterised by patience on behalf of the government due to its awareness that such endurance was necessary for the success of the experiment.

Q: The confidence session clearly revealed the political structure of the Lower House in terms of the effectiveness of the blocs and their political affiliations. It also clarified the political aspirations of the people through the attitudes of their representatives. How would you describe the political map of the Lower House of Parliament?

A: I cannot say that the political map of the House has taken its final shape. There is a Muslim group or a Muslim bloc that succeeded (in winning the elections) by lifting the slogan, "Islam is the solution." This is a phenomenon with clear characteristics.

There are other members of the House who are known for their leftist beliefs. Among those there is a prominent communist, Mr Issa Mdanat, and he said so himself. Also, there are representatives of the Democrats (Jordan's Democratic Party) and the Popular front (the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) though in small numbers. And there are independents trying to form their own blocs and to draw common grounds among themselves.

Q: The House is now seeing the emergence of new blocs that are mostly aimed at balancing the weight of the Muslim bloc. The latest of these was the National bloc. What is the role that you envisage for this bloc?

A: I believe that there is room for more than one bloc (in the House). And I believe that the National bloc will play a reconciliatory role among the various blocs and political tendencies.

There are no walls among the blocs (in the Parliament). You will find that the majority of the deputies support the right idea and the correct opinion regardless of who proposed them.

Q: What is your definition of the

Now that it is moving away from the phase of making demands to that of offering "useful and workable solutions" for the country's numerous problems, the Lower House of Parliament has many urgent challenges to face up to. The House is now turning to the "realistic problems" of unemployment, economic recession, foreign debts and price hikes.

In an exclusive interview which he gave to The Star editor Ayman Al-Safadi, Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Mr. Suleiman Arar gives his assessment of Jordan's democratic experience, and presents his views on its future characteristics.

"opposition" in the House, and how would you describe the difference in opinion between the government and some members of the Parliament?

A: The way I see it, there is no opposition (in the House) in the real sense of the word. May be there are pre-mediated stands against the government. But I cannot refer to the existing blocs as opposition. There are personal opinions that might oppose certain ideas or subjects or support them. In this sense, there is consociation and not opposition.

Q: Political parties are indispensable to a mature parliamentary tradition. When will the democratic process be completed by allowing political parties to exist, and will there be any serious efforts towards this end during this year?

A: This is a question that should be addressed to the people. Once the national



"I have made a vow to myself... (to) be with everybody and for everybody... (and not to be) prejudiced to any bloc or to my personal beliefs and opinions."

"There are no walls among the blocs (in the Parliament). You will find that the majority of the deputies support the right idea and the correct opinion regardless of who proposed them."

charter is put for plebiscite, the door will be open for establishing political parties. What I cannot predict now, however, is whether there is a serious drive among the people towards setting up political parties. Even though the democratic experiment says that our people are serious in wanting to form parties and in their wish to see these parties become effective.

Q: What is the role of the government in this process?

A: The government has no role.

Q: But do you think the government will soon lift the ban on political parties?

A: No, the matter, as I understood from the government's statement and (His Majesty King Hussein's) Speech from the Throne, is dependent on the national charter and the people's approval of it.

Q: Some deputies voiced their suspicion of the charter and its constitutionality. But His Majesty King Hussein has recently confirmed that the charter will be put for voting. What is the solution?

A: The solution lies in the position of the House as clarified in

Q: During the last few weeks, the Muslim bloc has proved to be mature and organised in its stands. Do you think this will reflect on the response of the Jordanian public to it, and will that strengthen its popularity?

A: I believe that the unified position of the Muslim bloc, and its appearance as one serious party for which one person speaks have given it large popularity. I believe this will be appreciated by the Jordanian people.

Like is the case with all peoples of the earth, emotional speeches might find some people who would listen to them. But the Jordanian public is highly educated in its majority, and measures up to the responsibilities. Our people are well informed of the experiences of other peoples and are not concerned with extreme positions which have no taste and no colour.

The Jordanian people demand from their representatives to show clear positions and clear policies and to offer what is useful for the country and what solves their (the people's) problems.

This is the nature of the future contention. It will be between those who offer complete and well-constructed solutions and those who appeal for public sympathy.

Q: How do you evaluate the response of the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to the deputies' demands for political reforms?

A: The government has been ahead of us in giving everything that we would have demanded. Now we have no more demands as far as public freedoms, freedom of expression, travel and work are concerned.

Now we have to turn towards the realistic problems; the problem of unemployment; how do we solve the problem of foreign debts? How do we deal with price hikes?

The role of the House in this should not be that of the demanding. It should study (these problems) and offer solutions that would help.

Q: A major topic among the Jordanian public now is the conditional vote of confidence of the Muslim bloc to Mr Badran. The bloc said their confidence was conditional on Mr Badran's response to their list of 14 demands. A major demand was the application of Islamic Sharia. Can you visualise a compromise that meets this demand but still reconciles between that and the existing realities of life?

A: The government responded by saying that it would move towards the application of Sharia. This is something that exists in the constitution as the Islamic Sharia is one of the sources of the law. Inspiring law by Sharia, if a suitable solution is found, is something that neither Muslims nor Christians would object to. We have two religions in this country. For the Muslims, Islam is a faith. Christians look at Islam as a tradition.

This might be perceived by some observers as interference. The truth is if the deputy's speech is to the point I do not interfere. At the confidence session, I did not interfere with any deputy's speech. I've given the floor (to the deputies) in accordance with the lists prepared by my deputies who are themselves members of the House.

Continued on page 6

18 JANUARY 1990

The ripening of the democratic process

AMMAN (Star) - As speculations of an early cabinet reshuffle continue to spawn around the government of Mr Mudar Badran, reshuffling has already started within blocs in the Jordanian Lower House of Parliament.

Now the "three difficult days", are over one can safely say that it is time to regroup, both inside the government and within the Lower House blocs.

The Islamic bloc, which had played its cards right and had a vital influence on the final outcome of the confidence session, seems to be adamant on preserving its political gains as the largest and most organised political group inside the Lower House of Parliament.

Hours after the confidence session was concluded deliberations

News analysis

began among independent and members of other small alliances to form a united bloc in order to confront the increasing political weight of the Islamists. The "Nationalist" bloc which was joined by independent deputies now has 23 members in its ranks. How viable will this alliance prove to be can only be tested during the coming sessions. Despite the

After the "three difficult days" test, the emergence of new blocs and the re-distribution of political weight in the parliament are facts which prove that Jordan's parliamentary experiment is maturing.

fact that the newly-structured bloc is joined by outspoken deputies, observers question the strength of the alliance especially when it comes to adopting united stands on major political and economic issues.

The three-day confidence session which ended on New Year's day was a rough, tough and necessary test for the Jordanian democratic process. This aging phase for the many unseasoned deputies would have been necessary to "baptise" those with no parliamentary experience whatsoever and who found themselves "representatives" of the people after the first general election in 20 years was held in November.

Similarly, the government which had acted independently of any sort of legislative supervision for the last two decades was sure to go through "difficult" approval test by those whose main campaign slogan was to make the government account for its deeds.

The reshuffle within the parliamentary blocs is thus a natural process in any democratically-elected parliament. While the Is-

radio or read in daily newspapers was, to say the least, strange and uncommon.

Many still believe that democracy gives one the right to curse the government or scathe political opponents and that democratic practice does not go beyond one's free expression of opinion to this.

The reformations that are taking place inside the Lower House reflect at this stage a growing sense of awareness among the deputies of the importance of united political action.

One expects to see defections, formations of splinter blocs out of major ones and even coordination between leading and opposing blocs in the Lower House soon.

Beyond the internal tuning of the parliamentary apparatus, the people too have matured during the "three difficult days" of the vote of confidence sessions. Now the deputies whom they have elected have been tested. They have been heard speaking, seen in action and most of all they have had their chance to put forward what they believe in.

The final vote of confidence is not for the deputies only but for the larger constituencies outside the domed atrium of the People's Assembly.

One cannot but wonder what will be the outcome if in this country we had instant opinion polls to measure the popularity of governments, ministers and even deputies.

The mechanism of the democratic process in Jordan may still be nascent and cumbersome for obvious reasons. One must note that in democratic societies where the final judgement belongs to the people, even the democratic mechanism is not immune to change and evolution. Perhaps the people of Jordan may begin to form their own judgements on the durability of the democratic machinery in the light of the performance of their elected deputies.

The fact that the internal mechanism of the blocs is beginning to develop and, hopefully, mature indicates a move in this direction. One hopes that the deputies, within their blocs, will begin to move away from general and sometimes "wishful" demands onto real workable programmes for this country's numerous problems.

Jordanians try to adapt to new political phase

By Wafa Amr
Special to The Star

AMMAN - The attitudes Jordanians are holding towards the advent of democracy in their country are understandably variant. They range from outright suspicion to extreme delight at Jordan's embarking on this irreversible process.

But the majority agree that the road to full democratization is long and full of challenges. In addition to this, there are those who are not worried about the possibility of running into mistakes at the early stage of the democratization process, while others voice their fears at people's lack of awareness at this critical stage of Jordan's history.

"Confusion among people is natural at this stage," says political science professor Dr Kamel Abu Jaber of Jordan University. "This is due to the long absence of democracy, which is not a pill to be taken at times of illness for temporary and fast relief of pain, but rather a process of interaction that takes time to produce results," he says.

An old shopkeeper in Amman says that "now we can start breathing unpolluted air. But we

are not used to it still." The old man's son was jailed more than one time for belonging to the banned Jordanian Communist Party. In his view, Jordanians had paid a price for the democratic gains, pointing to the riots of South Jordan in April of last year.

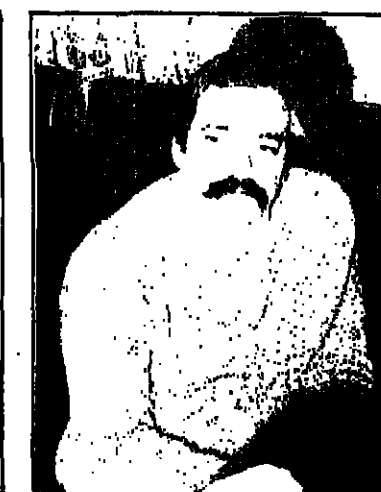
A member of a leftist group (Jordan Democratic Party) says that despite the April riots "peaceful means is the title of this phase (of Jordan's history)." This, according to him, is evident in the easiness with which ordinary people are now responding to events taking place inside the parliament. The mentality of many people is changing and for the better, according to a foreign reporter residing in Jordan.

A foreign observer says that what is happening now in Jordan is an example of when "...people's idealism outstrips their pragmatism." How far can this "idealism" proceed before it is confronted once again by pragmatism is yet to be seen.

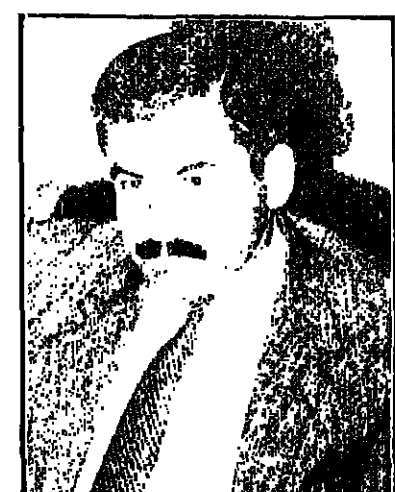
But the daily newspaper columnist Mr Mo'ness Al Razaz perceives this issue differently. He argues that people can't impose a "popular" government at this



Dr Kamel Abu Jaber



Mo'ness Razaz



Mazen Al Saket

stage because of the fragility of the democratization process. He says that democracy would be "better maintained by a prime minister like Mr Mudar Badran." In his own view people would demand less of the present government than of a prime minister affiliated with a political party. Thus, Razaz says, "democratic achievements would be taken one step at a time."

Other observers see the growth of what they call "people's power" in Jordan as a new factor on the political arena. Added to this, says one observer, "there is a wide confidence gap between the government and the people that should be bridged. And that, he says, takes time."

Economist and political observer Mazen Saket says the best way to end the confidence crisis and make sure that the present process continues is to

create "institutionalised democracy". This could only come through democratic institutions. According to Saket, the responsibility of safeguarding the democratic gains rests with the political forces such as the existing "political parties."

In his view, it is up to the political parties to adapt to the latest reforms and changes that had taken place in Jordan. Saket believes that such parties have to put forward their programmes "in order to increase people's awareness to the changes that are taking place."

Many of those interviewed by this reporter agree that, whether they are recognised by the government or not "political parties do exist and have affected society in various ways."

But since they were compelled to work underground, it is im-

portant that they (the parties) work publicly and allow the people to study their programmes. And it is expected that these parties will be "extremist" in the beginning.

Some of these parties could lean to the far left or the far right, and this, according to Dr Abu Jaber, is natural.

"The situation might look like a pendulum. It swings to the extreme left or right, but then its rests in the middle," says Abu Jaber. Whatever observers may differ on, they certainly agreed on one thing:

This "golden age" of democracy in Jordan offers the citizens a rare opportunity to face the real issues. The role of political parties is to educate themselves and the people while parliament serves to educate people in their public affairs," Dr Abu Jaber says.

THE STAR 5

No more demands !

Continued from page 4

There will be no problems if the government derives some of the laws from the Sharia, the reason being that our Christian brethren do not have answers to all legal issues in their religion. A good example of that is the inheritance law which is inspired by Sharia (and followed by Muslims and Christians alike). I don't think there is a contradiction in that. I believe that ordinary people understand the application of Sharia as prohibiting alcohol from restaurants etc. I think everybody is mature enough to settle for allowing only non-Muslims to trade in alcohol.

Q: The democratic changes and the re-activation of the Parliament have definitely reflected on the press. Do you think the press has reached the level expected of it, and if it didn't, what are the reasons for that?

A: I don't think there is a problem of freedom or climate. If there is any lagging behind it is in the technical standards. But this will all be better and clearer in the future and through practice.

Q: It is said that some neighbouring Arab countries are apprehensive to the Jordanian democratic experiment due to their fear of being affected by it. What is the extent of these effects, and when, in your opinion, will they start to appear?

A: We should not be concerned with these matters. We should not view things in spiteful manner - this angers this and this pleases that. We are practicing democracy inside our country and for our country. We are not interfering in anybody else's affairs.

fairs and I don't think any Arab country will be disturbed if we govern ourselves (efficiently). Our goal is to effectively watch our expenditure and the policy of the country.

This is an issue that relates to us only and I don't feel that any Arab country is against that, (democracy in Jordan). Maybe some people make their own assumptions of being with or against (others).

We don't mean to be with or against (anybody) in our experiment. We practice it (democracy) for our own internal needs.

Definitely, if the experiment works and the country progresses without any setbacks, I think our brethren who do not practice it (democracy) or are reluctant to introduce it will follow suit. But its failure will give a proof to those who say that there is no use for democracy, and they will continue with their attitudes.

Q: The democratic process was born out of a difficult period in Jordan's history; economic hardships, recessions, unemployment etc. How had these composition affect the lower house, and in what way did it inspire public opinion.

A: I believe that the people elected those whom they believed were capable of fighting corruption. They did not try to vote for those (who were) qualified. Many of those elected are qualified and decent. But the mood of the people was to vote for those who were capable of censoring and making the corrupt accountable. (They elected those) who were with spotless records.

'The Arabs are the enemy'

Former US envoy James Akins calls upon Arab diplomacy to counter the new slogan the Jewish lobbies are circulating in the wake of new world changes, which in his view could well be in favour of Arab causes.

AMMAN (Star) - Former US ambassador James Akins did not predict the Intifada when he visited the region in November 1987, but neither did the rest of the world. But as he kept close to regional developments and became an outspoken pro-Arab American during the last decade, he found out that a whole generation of Palestinian youth was becoming radicalised even when "Palestinian leaders were denying it."

After more than two years since its outbreak in December 1987, Mr Akins sees the Intifada as accomplishing little of what it was bent on achieving: mainly an independent Palestinian state. The reason for this, he says, is that while the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "made all the necessary concessions," Israel on the other hand made little or none.

Mr Akins, who was in Amman on a private visit of the region last week, told The Star that he was not correct to call the current drive for peace a process.

"The process hasn't started yet. It is an exaggeration to call it a process. What we have now are preliminary skirmishes," he says. The former envoy to Saudi Arabia says that it is Israel that should bear the blame for the delay in launching the peace process. "Israel has no right in naming the members of the Palestinian delegation and the Palestinians are rightful in expecting concessions from Israel," he says.

Mr Akins believes that even

though the US-PLO dialogue might not have achieved a lot until now, it should be continued. He points to the validity of King Hussein's past remarks that the US can no longer play the role of a neutral mediator, because in Mr Akins words the "United States is part of the Israeli team."

All the same, Mr Akins says that the hope for achieving peace in the Middle East during the Bush-Baker administration is higher than it was under the Reagan-Shultz team.

Mr Akins says that the PLO had come a long way, starting with the Stockholm declarations. American-Palestinian dialogue would not have started had it not been for the PLO concessions.



Ambassador James Akins

But just as there are many in Israel who would like to see the peace process started, there are those in Israel and the United States who "would like to see Mr Arafat replaced by a hardliner because this would relieve Israel from any pressures" and allow it to continue its absorption of the occupied territory.

A Middle East expert who now works as a political and economic analyst of the region for "private clients" from his office in Washington DC where he lives, Mr Akins says that Mr James Baker's latest statements on washing his hands completely from the Middle East issue should be taken seriously. "Mr Baker is frustrated and would like to encourage both parties to the conflict to get out of the present stalemate," he says. "I only wish Baker put the blame on the Israelis because the PLO made all the concessions, yet he blamed both sides which is not right."

Changes in Eastern Europe and inside the Soviet Union should not, Mr Akins believes, worry the Arabs about losing the support of these states. The restoration of diplomatic ties between East Europe and Israel would not necessarily put these countries against Arab causes. On the contrary, Mr Akins says: "an independent Poland or Hungary would be more supportive of freedom causes. I don't think a country which is no longer a satellite will support a country which occupies other people's land."

World changes would also affect the US rationale vis-a-vis Israel. Until recently the United States justified its absolute moral and financial support of Israel on the grounds of Israel being its "strategic ally; securing the oil flow and facing communist threats in the region." This, "ac-

cording to Mr Akins" is changing since the US has decided to cut its defence budget and the Soviet "threat" is no longer a viable excuse. "Israel is no longer our strategic asset."

In the words of Mr Akins "the US will be cutting its defence aid to Israel in the coming two years."

As the Israelis realise this important development they are beginning to take action. "The Arabs are the enemy" is the new slogan being circulated by Jewish lobbies in the United States. "This is a task for Arab diplomacy," says Mr Akins. "To counter this claim the Arabs must explain to the Americans that it is Israel which occupies Arab lands and is a source of instability in the region."

During the last 10 years Mr Akins had seen a positive change in American public opinion towards Arab causes. Israel's image, he says, is no longer what it used to be. The change began after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, with US backing, with the intention of annexing Southern Lebanon. The mission failed because of Palestinian and Lebanese resistance. The second factor, believes Mr Akins, was the eruption of the Intifada. "Both incidents have had a thunderous effect on the American public opinion."

While the Arabs still believe that the Jewish lobby carries considerable clout in the United States, Mr Akins has other views. "The Jews are rich and influential and they are organised, but they are also divided." Most American Jews realise "that for Israel to prosper it must reach peace with the Arabs."

Mr Akins mentions three cases which prove that the Jewish lobby cannot, by itself, bring the downfall of a public official. The first concerns Sen Findley who lost his seat in the 1982 elections, but not because of the Jewish lobby but rather because of the vital demographic changes that occurred within his own constituency. The second is Sen. Percy, who "instead of standing up and saying that he was running for US congress and not the Knesset and that America's national interest takes precedence over Israel's," yielded to pressure. The third is Sen. Chaffee who did not yield to pressure and won the elections despite the lobby's opposition.

Whatever people think, Mr Shamir could still be the man who could, after all, make concessions. "He is a moderate compared to radicals like Meir Kahane, Levinger and even Sharon," says Mr Akins. But the Arabs must move from relying on words and denunciations into concerted action.

The Jewish lobby is rich and generous. The Arabs and Arab-Americans are less influential and less generous. The Israelis are changing their tactics to deal with new realities and the Arabs must do so soon and make use of the global changes that are taking place around them, he says.

Art movement

Old problems still mar the picture

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Star

AMMAN - Over the last decade, the art movement in Jordan has changed in many subtle ways. Back in the late 1970s, and early 1980s, art exhibitions in the capital were a chaotic mishmash, a mixture of every conceivable style and influence, of good, bad and indifferent work. Most shows were by new and young artists, usually graduates of the then still-youthful Center for Music and Fine Arts (CMFA) in Shmeisani.

A few, a very few, were of the work of the older established artists like Mohanna Durra and Ahmad Nawash, who had spawned the art movement of Jordan back in the 1950s.

Almost invariably, these exhibitions were held in the halls of foreign cultural centres, in hotels' lobbies, or in the tiny rooms of the Ministry of Culture and Artists Union, (AU), both of which have long since moved.

Openings were generally small affairs attended mostly by other artists and a small hard core of art enthusiasts. Once opened, exhibitions were rarely visited by members of the public who generally considered art to be a rather irrelevant pastime of little account.

The early 1980s also saw many visiting exhibitions from abroad. Although some were brought in with genuinely good intentions of allowing the Jordanian public a greater exposure to Western modern art movements, others were an attempt to exploit a previously untapped market. An example of these latter exhibitions was the rash of exhibitions of often overpriced paintings and prints by 19th century "Orientalists." This was, as Noha Batshon, owner of The Gallery at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, says "a negative experience that led to positive results. Since then, there has been an increased awareness. People started to look around closer to home to see what their own artists were doing."

Increased awareness

This increase of awareness in the Jordanian public towards local art is in fact the key note of the eighties. There is no one reason why this came about but certainly several factors contributed towards this same end result. One of these was the establishment in 1979 of the Royal Society for Fine Arts (RSFA) which in the following year founded the Jordan National Gallery (JNG).

The JNG provided essentially for the first time an exhibition space that was a serious alternative to the halls of the foreign cultural centres, and where a permanent collection of works by artists in other Arab and Islamic countries, can be seen by the general public.

The public could go any time to see what both local and other artists were producing.

Works from the permanent collection, which has grown from the original 70 works of art to more than 1,000, have been exhibited all around Jordan - in Wadi Musa, Karak, Shobak, Irbid, Madaba - as well as abroad. The interest these exhibitions stimulated had a profound and lasting effect on at least some of the many people who saw them, and one of their tangible results was the increase in the number of people, particularly school children, who now visit the JNG on regular basis.

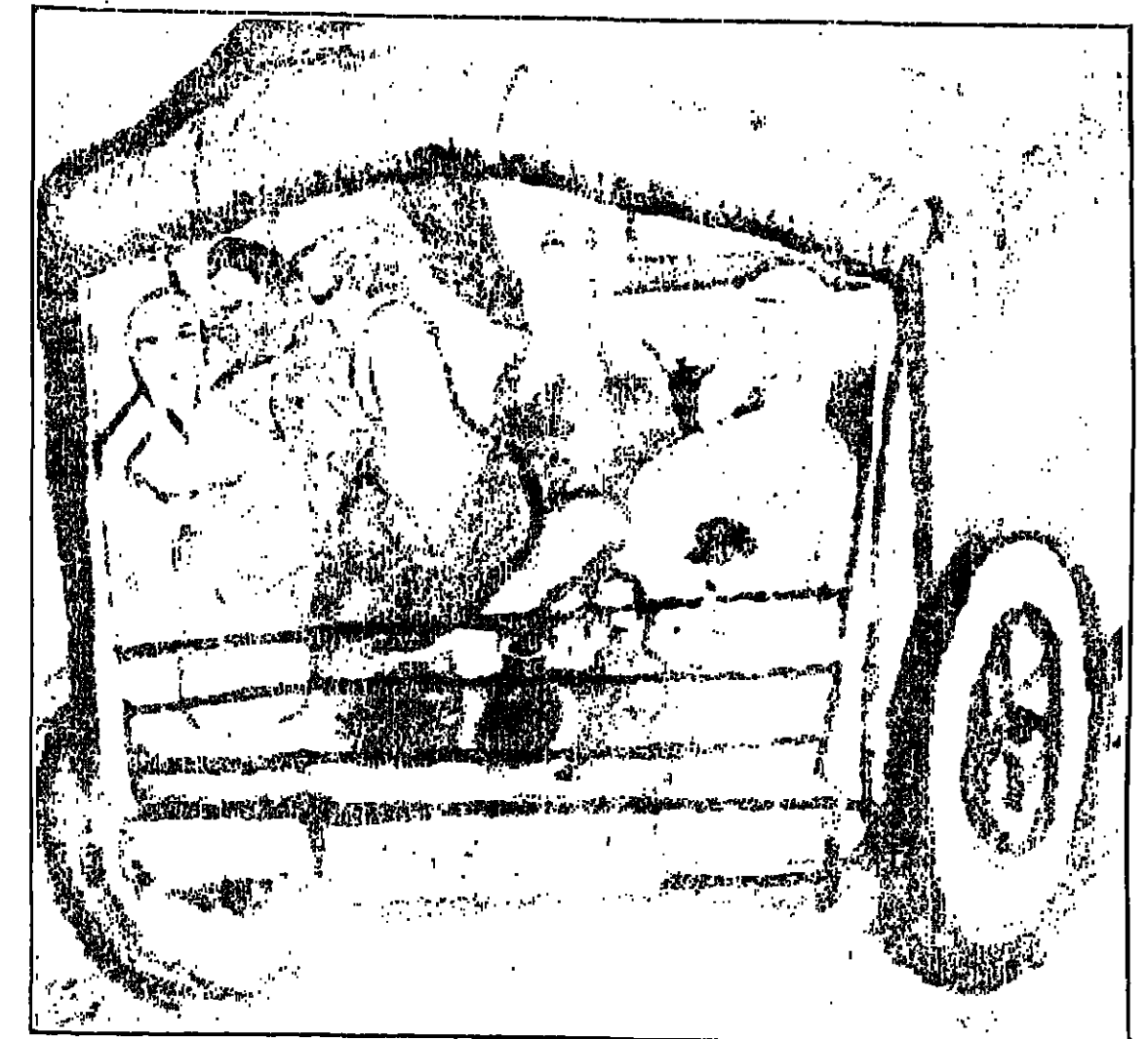
Another exhibition which had a deep impact on the Jordanian public was the huge exhibition held by Her Royal Highness Princess Fakhrelnissa Zaid and her students. Presenting an alternative to the traditional, and more classical approach to painting, this exhibition generated lively discussions and interest that touched people from all walks of life. The continued activity of the Princess and her students has, over the decade, been a major factor in increasing general awareness of local art.

The opening of a Fine Arts Department at Yarmouk University also gave local art a much needed push, seriousness and air of respectability. Over the last few years, the Department has graduated a handful of young artists with potential, and perhaps just as importantly, a number of art teachers. At the same time, it provided another centre for art outside Amman.

Perhaps one of the most interesting results of this gradually increasing awareness of local art was the evolution of local art collectors. In the past, few people actually bought local art works, but as the eighties progressed young middle class couples suddenly awoke to the presence of local art and started filling the empty walls in their new villas with figurative paintings. As local artist, Ammar Khammash noted, even people in the poorer areas are becoming more discerning and are now hanging the mass produced David Robert prints on their walls.

Towards the end of the decade, the shift away from exhibiting in cultural centres and hotel lobbies to other spaces has almost been complete. Now most artists show their work at local galleries. But apart from the Abdul Hameed Shoman Gallery and the JNG, these generally tend to be small or awkward. After moving from the Villa Rosa in Shmeisani to the First Circle, the Alia Art Gallery has never regained the importance and prestige it once commanded.

It is due to the stringent selection of some of these local galleries, notably the JNG, the Abdul Hameed Shoman Gallery and the Al Wadli Gallery, that the standard of art exhibited in the capital has significantly risen



"End of a Work Day" by Janset Shami, an advocate of Princess Fakhrelnissa Zaid school which has had deep impact on art in Jordan.



The 1980s also saw many visiting exhibitions that sometimes aimed at exploiting the market.



over the last few years. But many feel there is still too much inferior work being exhibited which brings the overall standard down.

Much to be achieved

By the end of the decade and despite the general increase in awareness, Jordanian artists still face the same problems they encountered at the beginning of the eighties.

"Artists here are under the stress of social traditions," says Aziz Amour, assistant professor in the Department of Fine Arts at Yarmouk University. "Even educated Jordanians still believe in realistic art and that is very restricting for the artists," he says.

Ammour believes that if an artist "does produce" something different, something more ab-

stract, he or she would need a great deal of courage to show the work. It is very hard for the artist to break away from accepted trends and hence the lack of new ideas in local art.

"Many of my students come from families who disapprove of their children specialising in painting and the student is thus unable to work at home. This is very limiting," he says that there is still a big gap in Jordan between the developing artist and society and only increased activity by local artists and more exhibitions will break this gap.

Princess Wijdan, president of the (RSFA) feels even more strongly that there is still much to be achieved. "I consider the last decade as one in which we (the artists) have asserted ourselves but only in a superficial way - the basic problems are still

there. Nobody has even tried to tackle them."

Princess Wijdan believes Jordanian artists have two major problems. The first is the inability of local artists to work together, which resulted in their failure to develop a coherent artists union.

Unlike other unions, like those of the writers and musicians, the (AU) has remained small and ineffective.

Out of this arises the artists' second major problem: They are neither taken seriously nor are they properly recognised in official circles.

"We have to have a strong artists union, we have to have a voice," says Princess Wijdan. Only then can the artists qualify for government benefits as a union and without having to work in other professions, she says.

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The Star

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An artist of the human soul

The renowned Egyptian architect and teacher Hassan Fathy, who died in Cairo recently, leaves behind thousands of admirers and some loyal followers of his style in the East and West.

By Fuad M. Fikry
Special to the Star

CAIRO - Hassan Fathy, who died in Cairo in November at the age of 89, was universally acclaimed as the champion of indigenous building. But that is more often misunderstood by architects and public alike.

What is indigenous building about? Is it only about building with mud and bricks instead of concrete, which is assumed to be an imported form of construction material in most developing countries, or is it about deeper meanings in the environment we build around ourselves?

Fathy represented and was eventually universally hailed for his courage to demand a meaningful environment. The master craftsman died shortly after an architectural event that did much to publicise his ideas and work - the fourth cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture which was held in Cairo.

Two Spanish architects, Guil-

lermo Maluenda and Felipe Pich-Aguilera, in an article in the forthcoming issue of the architectural magazine *Mimar*, paid tribute to Fathy's contribution to world architecture. The two offered a personal interpretation of the relevance of Fathy's ideas not just for developing societies but those of the industrial world.

In his lifetime, Fathy was a controversial figure and independent experts believe that it would be wrong to suggest that he won the decisive battle against the onset of concrete in Cairo or other cities in the Islamic world. He won smaller battles, and respect worldwide, and perhaps pricked a conscience here and a conscience there, but on the whole Fathy was unable to stem the tide of indiscriminate modernisation in his immediate environment, Egypt.

As pointed out by the two Spanish architects, the need for good architecture remains just as great in the West, where "people have lost a sense of tradition," as in the developing world. This seems to be the reason behind the active participation of Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, in the architectural debate in that country.

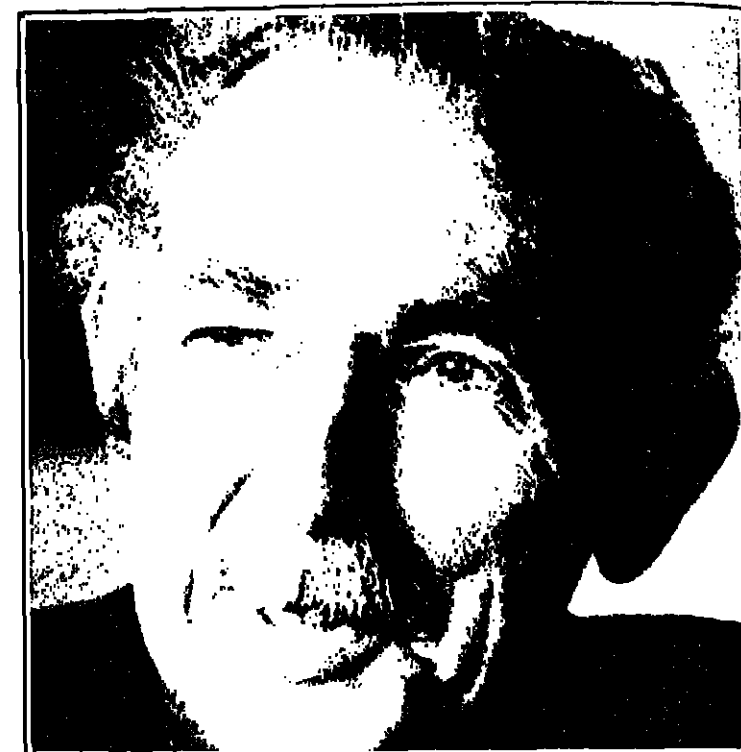
In his book, 'A Vision of Britain,' published earlier in 1989, Prince Charles noted that Fathy

had "to put up with persistent vitriolic criticism and denigration by the modernist architectural establishment because he continued to espouse the cause of traditional Islamic architecture." The prince noted that Fathy was "dismissed as a romantic and out of touch with modern reality." A similar charge has often been levelled at Charles himself by his detractors, architects committed to modern rather than traditional architecture.

The Egyptian master's ideas and work were internationally recognised when the Aga Khan created a special Chairman's Award to honour him in 1980. In subsequent years Fathy attracted disciples amongst a cross-section of the profession, from senior architects to aspiring young beginners in the Islamic world.

Ismail Serageldin, author of a recently published book, "Space for Freedom," observed that Fathy's undeviating dedication to his vision "that many had branded as overly romantic," was buttressed by deep beliefs in concepts that are so widely accepted that their revolutionary character is frequently forgotten.

"Ideas, such as the importance of learning from vernacular architecture, using local materials, self-help, and architecture for the poor, are not accepted as conventional wisdom. The unpopu-



Hassan Fathy - A quest for a meaningful environment

larity of those views among the international architectural establishment at the time he presented them in the 1940s, should not be forgotten."

In his own writings, particularly "Architecture and Community," Fathy emphasised "the musicality" and the spiritual act of building. "If the building, the room, space I surround myself with is proportioned harmoni-

ously, it is musical," he wrote.

Although Fathy never established an architectural practice in the modern sense, he designed and built extensively from 1937 onward. His buildings include hotels, houses, villages and farms in Egypt and other countries in the Arab world, plus some design projects as far apart as the United States and Pakistan.

A world of Oriental dreams

Jamal Badran is a Jordanian artist well known for decorating the University of Jordan Mosque, and drawing the reconstruction plans of Saladdin Minber in Jerusalem when it was burnt down by Israeli settlers. Hind-Lara Mango visits the 80-year-old artist and writes about his work and talents.



Jamal Badran: A life-long dedication to Islamic art

works which are made of Hebron glass. The artist uses verses from the Holy Qur'an, poems, and proverbs.

Describing his style of work, he says that he first looks at the glass and studies its space and potential. "I first paint the words in bronze then I glaze them with

a glue. After half an hour, I apply gold leaf (thin strips of gold sheets) onto the letters. So, if the gold is worn out with time, the bronze will appear giving the letters an antiquated look."

Badran outlines the letters with silver, defining shapes. Red lines in the form of Roman de-

signs are sometimes painted on top of the silver. The colours themselves have symbolic values: blue is related to God's mercy. This phenomenon is attributed to a verse, which states: "My mercy embraceth all things..." Mercy is symbolized by the blue sky and sea. Gold represents

the sun and spirit.

Badran's lamp shades rarely contain any gold. The reason being that they are usually illuminated from within by electric light.

The material used for these shades resembles leather in that it gives the impression of a thick texture. Most of the time china ink outlines the jumping gazels and flowers. The shapes are then coloured with watercolour and coated with varnish. Olive wood stands carry such creations, and they are also carved out by the artist.

The artist uses his carving tool as a writer does his pen. The stand is in the shape of smooth urns and vases. On them intricate flowers and similar forms are seen.

Arabesque serves as the background for Holy Qur'anic script which is used in most of his works thus adding an elusive and significant air to the work. This is seen profusely in his books as he paints the outer sides of the paper in gold leaf.

Employing special gold leaf nibs, he cuts out the shapes of leaves and flowers. The book's outer cover is not forgotten; the leather is wetted allowing the artist to emboss patterns on it with vegetable dye.

This artist makes use of all materials which do not have to be costly. Condensed milk tins are drawn upon and utilized in some way. Badran proudly discloses that "my latest work is of a villa window (1.20 cm x 100 cm) in 'Abdoun. It embodies my usual Islamic motifs painted on glass."

ECONOMY

The Star

The 1990 budget The IMF might not like it, but it's all we've got!

AMMAN (The Star) - The biggest challenge for Jordan during the present decade will be its economic reform plan, mainly paying off most of its foreign debts, increasing its hard-currency reserves and getting rid of its budget deficit. Economists agree that a good first step would be to restrain public and private sectors' spending while encouraging national savings and export investments. And while not many observers see the 1990 fiscal budget as meeting the performance measures set out by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) there is general agreement that Jordan's own measuring criteria could well be based on "its strong will and determination."

Last week the Finance Minister Mr Basel Jourdauch told Jordanian deputies about the country's targets within the Economic Adjustment Programme as agreed with the IMF. He presented these targets in order to "justify" the bases on which the 1990 budget was planned.

The minister's budget speech

defined six major requirements imposed by the IMF on the country's financial and monetary systems. Briefly, the six objectives call for restraining consumption, both public and private; increasing savings and investments; achieving moderate economic growth rates; increasing local revenues and decreasing expenditures; increasing national exports and restructuring national credit.

As a medium-term programme, the Economic Adjustment Programme could well take Jordan through its toughest years until mid-1993. Economic targets for 1993 reflect the following aspirations (as a per cent of the GDP): Real growth rate 4 per cent; local revenues 36 per cent and government expenditures 46 per cent; national exports will go up to 10 per cent annually and trade balance deficit 30 per cent; inflation rate 7 per cent; consumption 90 per cent and national savings 8 per cent; gross investments 27 per cent (private sector 16 per cent and government 11 per cent); balance of

payments deficit: zero.

The above targets were set by the IMF, as agreed to by the Jordanian government, as a result of a thorough investigation of the existing imbalances in the national economy.

For instance, preliminary figures for 1988 show the following (as a per cent of GDP): consumption 103 per cent; national savings negative 3 per cent; gross investments 26 per cent; real growth rate negative 2 per cent; local revenues 3 per cent; expenditures 49 per cent; trade balance deficit 40 per cent; balance of payments deficit 6 per cent.

The budget deficit, which is the main theme in the IMF prescription, is targeted to decrease (as a per cent of GDP) from 20 per cent (before adding aid and grants) in 1989 to 9 per cent (before aid and grants) or 6 per cent (including aid and grants).

Budget targets

The 1990 budget maintains strong arguments against economic common sense. The budget speech defined seven main

objectives of the 1990 budget:

1. Seeking realistic and objective estimates of revenues and expenditures.
2. Maintaining defence and national security requirements.
3. Raising domestic revenues and increasing reliance on

Syrian Minister in Amman this month

Amman (Star) - Syrian Minister of Industry will arrive in Amman by the end of this month to co-chair the meetings of the general committee of the Jordanian-Syrian Industrial Zone (JSIZ) which are periodically held under the chairmanship of the Jordanian and Syrian ministers of Industry. The meetings will discuss the possibility of leasing parts of the lands the JSIZ owns on the Jordanian-Syrian borders.

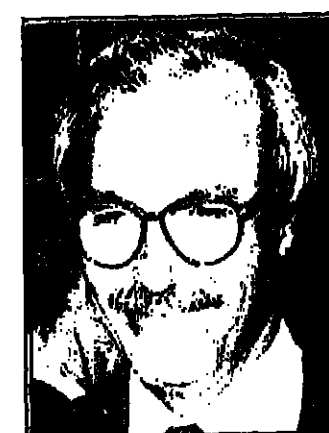
ABC moves into Jordan New bank to be part of a \$ 1 billion financial empire

AMMAN (Star) - Jordan has been chosen by the Arab Banking Corp. of Bahrain as the first Arab country where ABC is a major shareholder in a commercial bank. The new bank, Arab Banking Corp. Bank (Jordan) was established with a capital of JD 10 million of which ABC holds 60 per cent. Jordan's Housing Bank owns another 25 per cent while the shareholders in the now defunct Jordan Securities Corp. (JSC) have control over the remaining 15 per cent.

The ABC bank replaces JSC which had its capital increased from JD 4 million to JD 10 million. The ABC bank will practice all commercial banking transactions and will have the right to open branches inside and outside the country.

Mr Abdullah Saudi, the chief executive officer of ABC (Bahrain) which was formed by three Arab states, Libya, Kuwait and the UAE 10 years ago with a capital of 750 million (on equal grounds), says that the birth of ABC bank (Jordan) came after more than one year of negotiations with the Housing Bank, which is the biggest shareholder in JSC.

According to Mr. Saudi, choosing Jordan came only after seri-



Saudi: Taking a plunge into Arab markets

ous research which projected the Jordanian market as having complete technical capabilities, and a reliable manpower.

Mr Saudi, who is of a Libyan national, also says that ABC was not in Jordan to buy out a losing corporation, but in accordance with its policy of getting into Arab markets. He points out that ABC is confident that it will make use of its 10-year-old experience in international money markets. He adds that the bank will not only be involved in attracting deposits and offering credits but will also develop re-

lations with ABC's various subsidiaries around the world, especially in South East Asia, West Europe and South America.

The Jordanian bank will be part of this international network, something which the Housing Bank is very pleased about.

Mr Saudi says that ABC will increase its capital from US\$ 750 million to \$1 billion and that it will establish an ABC (Europe) bank which will own and manage a number of European banks. He hinted to the fact that ABC is currently negotiating with two Arab countries to have joint venture projects similar to what has taken place in Jordan.

The Housing Bank has been chosen as a main partner because "it is a successful partner and a leading bank in Jordan."

Out of the estimated \$20 billion assets owned by ABC worldwide, only 25 per cent are in the Arab world while Europe has 46 per cent and the rest is distributed in other continents.

The fact that ABC has widespread presence in Europe will enable the corporation, according to Mr. Saudi, to expand its operations after the creation of the single market in 1992.

Briefs

● A number of Jordanian officials will soon visit Romania and other East European countries to conduct talks on news of increasing these countries' imports of Jordanian phosphate and exchanging them for goods and other various items.

● Central Bank Governor, Dr. Mohammad Said Al-Nabulsi, will soon visit a number of Gulf countries for talks on matters related to supplying the bank with foreign currencies. Some commercial banks in these countries have pledged to deposit the sum of \$1.3 billion in the Central Bank. So far the bank has received \$250 million.

● Talks that will be held in Amman by the end of this month between Prime Minister Mudar Badran and his Syrian counterpart Mr. Mahmoud Al Zu'bi gain special importance as they will review the means so far used by Syria to repay its \$120 million debt to Jordan. The Prime Ministers will also discuss ways of promoting co-operation between the two countries in various fields.

JORDAN ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY RISHA GAS POWER STATION ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER AVAILABILITY FOR GAS CONDITIONING PLANT AND PIPELINE FACILITIES TENDER NO. 52/89

Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) announces the Tender Document, No. 52/89 is available for purchase as of 17 January 1990.

The Tender consists of Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Gas Conditioning Unit, pipeline facilities and auxiliaries required for the treatment of Gas for Risha Gas Power Station.

Sealed Tenders shall be submitted to the Secretary of JEA Tendering committee before 10:00 a.m. Amman Time, 17 March 1990 at the JEA offices in Amman.

Tender Documents are available at the address given below for a nonrefundable fee of JD 150 payable to JEA for each set of the Tender documents

Jordan Electricity Authority
Jabal Amman - 7th Circle
Post Office Box 2310
Amman, Jordan
Telex: 21259 JEASAK
Fax: No. 818336

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:

	US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	8.25	7.9375	15.1875	6.75	9.75
2 mons.	8.25	8.125	15.250	6.81	9.6875
3 mons.	8.25	8.25	15.3125	7.06	9.4375
6 mons.	8.25	8.50	15.3125	7.125	9.250
1 year	8.325	8.5625	15.0625	7.125	9.1875

Interbank rates (Jordan)

saving accounts 7%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.5%, 1 months 9%, 2 months 9.125%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 11%.

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.7015/25	1.5120/50	1.6570/90	145.65/75	1.1647/52	5.7805/35

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Gold & Silver

	Gold	JD
1 kg	8,800.000	
21 ct	7.700	
18 ct	6.600	
Eng. pound	63.500	
Rashad:		
7g	56.000	
24ct(swiss)	9.600	
Silver		
1 kg	160.000	

Money Watcher

Average foreign exchange rates in Jordan. (Week: Jan. 9-15, 1990)

Official:	(Fils)
US	652.7
Pound	1,083.3
DEM.	392.1
SWF.	432.5
FRF.	113.9
Yen	448.8

Parallel	
US	677.5
Pound	1,128.3
DEM.	408.3
SWF.	450.8
FRF.	119.2
Yen	467.5

Consumer Watch

Counterfeit Ready-Wear

CLOTHING IS an ideal example of the many counterfeit products sold in the market. Generally, counterfeiters bear an unauthorized representation of a manufacturer's trademark or trade name. However, our case here deals with the "Made in" tag.

The Star's Consumer Watch Dept. came across a manufacturer who was promoting his own goods. He sells men's shirts, child's inner garments and women's outer garments. The "Made in" tags stated Paris, Rome and London. In fact, his wearing apparels were made in a neighbouring Arab country. He argued that middle class customers would not buy clothes with "Made in" tags stating Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Turkey, or Taiwan. They still wear clothes made in those countries but wish to see a Paris, Rome or London "Made in" tag. Unfortunately, they pay an additional 26 per cent over the regular price for these counterfeit tags.

The counterfeiter has two types of market targets, those who are in the JD 70 - JD 250 segment and those who are in the JD 15 - JD 50 segment. He concentrates on the latter. Those, he said, pay the additional 26 per cent against 19 per cent in the earlier segment. The counterfeiter noted that the ratio of buyers in the second segment to buyers in the first segment is 4:1. This astonishing fact indicates that the bulk of those who are deceived by counterfeiters are employees on the middle and low wage scales.

However, new realistic consumer patterns in the country reveal a popular switch to national goods.

Contracts & Contacts

● Tender No. 5/81 Central. Improving and expanding the Kherbet As-Samra waste water treatment plant. Government Tender Directorate/MoPW. Closing date 7/2/1990. ● Tender No. 841/89. Purchase of chemical materials. University of Yarmouk/Biology Sc. Div. Closing date 24/10/1990. Tender documents for JD 3. ● Supply of industrial sulphur. Jordan Sulphur Chemicals Co. Tel. 991435. Closing date 15/11/1990. Tender documents for JD 10. ● Tenders No. 88-97/89. (88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,97) (9 tenders). Supply of the following: Plug valves; carbon steel plates, bars and angles; overall; ferrallium 255, uranium b6 and uranium 45 n; Inconel pipes; uranium plates; Trapezoidal steel sheets and Inconel sheets; and ferrallium bars and plates. Arab Potash Company. Closing dates: 5/2, 5/2, 1/1990. Tender documents for JD 10; 10; 25,15,25,25,10,10 and 10. ● Tenders No. 89-95/89 (7 tenders). Supply of the following: straw or nylon brooms; floor mops; floor rubber wipers; powder milk; soft coconut; sheered apricots; and washing detergents. Military Consumer Corp. Closing dates: 21/1 - 22/1 - 23/1 - 24/1 - 25/1 - 27/1 - 28/1/1990. Tender documents for JD 5 each. ● Tender No. 31/89. Supply of tyres. Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Closing date 7/2/1990. Tender documents for JD 30. ● International. Tender No. 01/1990 Central. Supply and construction of water lines in various diameters. Water Authority of Jordan. Closing date 31/1/1990. Tender documents for JD 150. Tender No. 73/89 Central. (Open to contractors from EEC countries, Switzerland, Austria, Japan and USA). Supply and installation of Al-Hashimiyah sewage network. Water Authority of Jordan. Closing date 24/1/1990. Tender documents for JD 100. ● Tender No. 5/81 Central. Improving and expanding the Kherbet As-Samra waste water treatment plant. Government Tender Directorate/MoPW. Closing date 7/2/1990. ● Tender No. 841/89. Purchase of chemical materials. University of Yarmouk/Biology Sc. Div. Closing date 24/10/1990. Tender documents for JD 3. Supply of industrial sulphur. Jordan Sulphur Chemicals Co. Tel. 991435. Closing date 15/11/1990. Tender documents for JD 10. ● Tender No. 2/90. Supply of radioactive tyres. Jordan Electricity Authority. Closing date: 24/1/1990. Tender documents for JD 5.

This service is free-of-charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc. details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Industrial Zones

Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL Estates Corporation (JIEC) is a pioneering step for promoting, developing and complementing the industrial sector by providing the appropriate environment for investment through its well-developed and serviced Industrial Estates in various parts of the Kingdom.

Annan Industrial Estate at Sahab is the first project of the Corp., located 3 km South-East of Amman and occupying an area of 22.5 million sq. metres. To date it succeeded in licensing 175 different small and medium-sized industrial projects, and has a capacity to accommodate another 300 industrial projects.

The second project of the Corporation is Al-Hussein Industrial Estate with an area of 427 thousand sq. metres at Irbid near the University of Science and Technology. It aims at achieving national goals through encouraging local industries.

The corporation acts as a one-stop development agency. The investor will have to deal only with JIEC for the connection of all the services needed for his industry in addition to obtaining professional license or the building license. This is so because the corporation functions within the Industrial Estates, the authorities of the local and the Regional Planning Committees for application of the Planning of cities, Villages and Buildings Law.

Furthermore, JIEC provides a two-year exemption from income and social-services tax and full or partial exemptions from the Municipality and the authorities of the Regional Planning fees.

For more information please contact: The Investment Department, Amman Industrial Estate, Sahab Tel: 723399 - 722101 / Tlx: 22194 P.O. Box: 950278 - Amman

Shows & Exhibitions

Taipei Import Fair

With the theme of "your Partner in Development," the 1990 Taipei Import Fair (TIF) will be held August 30 - September 5, 1990, in the Exhibition Hall of the Taipei World Trade Centre. TIF is designed to help developing countries to promote their exports, investment opportunities and tourism in Taiwan and neighbouring countries. TIF is organized by the China External Trade Development Council (CETRA). For further information contact: CETRA Market Development Dept., 5F Cetra Tower, 333 Keelung Road, Sec. 1, Taipei, Taiwan ROC. Tel: 886-2-738-2345. Fax: 886-2-757-6443. Tlx: 21676 CETRA.

US trade with Mid East, N. Africa rises by 4 %

U.S. trade deficit set at \$ 1.78 billion, versus surplus of \$377 million in first three quarters of 1988.

TWO-WAY trade between the U.S. and the Middle East / North Africa region has tipped in favor of the latter. Figures for the first nine months of 1989, compared with those for the same period last year, show that U.S. exports and re-exports to the region rose only 4.25% to \$11,122.9 million, up from \$10,671.1 million.

By contrast, the Middle East and North Africa shipped \$12,894.7 million worth of goods to the U.S., according to new statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Commerce. This represents a 25% increase over the \$10,293.6 million in export value recorded for the same period last year.

The resulting U.S. trade deficit with the region amounted to \$1,771.8 million for the nine-month period. For the same period in 1988, the U.S. enjoyed an advantage of \$377.5 million in trade with these countries.

Already the area's largest exporter to the U.S., oil-rich Saudi Arabia, increased its level of exports by 24.9%, to \$5,283.8 million for January-September, 1989. In the corresponding period a year before, exports amounted to \$4,230.2 million. U.S. exports to the desert kingdom fell slightly to \$2,617.2 million in the first nine months of 1989, compared with \$2,812.6 million in the same period in 1988.

One country that bought significantly more U.S. goods was Bahrain, benefiting from both the Gulf cease-fire and a general recovery in oil prices. U.S. exports to Bahrain rose 160.8% to \$434.3 million in the first three-quarters of 1989 compared with \$166.5 million in the same period last year. Meanwhile, U.S. imports from Bahrain remained virtually stable, at \$66.4 million.

This upswing in purchases from the U.S. was shared by most of the other Gulf countries. Iraq, the U.S.'s second-largest trading partner in the Gulf, bought U.S. goods worth \$908.7 million between January and September, 10.4% higher than the \$823.2 million import value for the first three quarters of 1988. But sales to the U.S. rose even more steeply to \$1,802.8 million in the nine month period, up 61.4% from the \$1,117.1 million registered in the first three quarters of the previous year.

The United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) continued their strong trading partnership with the U.S. U.A.E. exports to the U.S. fell only 1.2% from January through September, to \$497.3 million. But the seven-member federation bought \$694.6 million worth of imports in return during the nine-month period, 33.3% more than in January-September 1988.

Kuwait increased trade in both directions. The most dramatic rise was in exports to the U.S. - \$735.8 million for January-September - up 119% from the \$336 million in such sales recorded in the first nine months of

1988. Imports from the U.S. also rose to \$575.2 million, a 17.4% increase over the \$490.1 million in purchases for January-September, 1988.

Trading levels between Oman and the U.S. were more modest, but improving. Imports from the U.S. climbed to \$133.6 million for the nine-month period 1989, 38.9% higher than the \$96.2 million bought in the corresponding period in 1988. Sales to the U.S. grew moderately, to \$8.1 million from \$69.6 million for the first

higher than the \$7 million exported during the first nine months of 1988.

War continues to ravage Lebanon. Not surprisingly, the value of Lebanese exports to the U.S. declined 29.3% to \$19.8 million in the first nine-month period, compared with \$28 million for January-September, 1988. The country bought U.S. goods worth only \$74.4 million during the first three quarters of 1988, 15.8% less than the \$88.4 million worth of imports recorded

compared with \$250 million in the corresponding period last year. Exports to the U.S. fell to \$6.9 million in January-September, 1989, from \$10 million in the first three quarters of 1988.

Israeli trade with the U.S. continued at a high level. Imports reached \$2,118.8 million between January and September of 1989, 13.3% lower than in the same period a year previously. But exports to the U.S. climbed 10.9% to \$2,176.8 million in the

million recorded for the same period in 1988. In the two corresponding periods in 1989 and 1988, Algeria's imports from the U.S. stayed steady at \$544.2 million and \$536.8 million, respectively.

Morocco's U.S. imports dipped by 3.3% to \$298.3 million in the first nine months of 1989, from \$308.4 million in January-September, 1988. The kingdom's exports rose to \$75.8 million, 13.3% higher than in the same period last year.

Tunisia sold only \$50.5 million worth of goods to the U.S. from January through September 1989, a 64.5% improvement over the \$30.7 million it exported there during the same period in 1988. It spent \$113.3 million on U.S. goods during the first three quarters of 1989, down 31.5% from last year's nine-month total of \$165.3 million.

Libya made no exports to the U.S. It did buy \$2.6 million worth of U.S. goods between January and September 1989. That was the first such purchase since 1987, when the country bought U.S. products worth a total of \$0.1 million.

Turkey's trade with the U.S. is far more significant. It bought \$1,469.6 million worth of U.S. goods between January and September 1989, up \$39.1 million, or 2.7%, over the same period last year. And sales rose to \$946 million in the first three quarters of 1989, up 41% over the \$670.7 million in exports recorded during the same period last year.

War continued to take its toll on the Sudan. Exports to the U.S. fell to \$16.7 million in the January-September 1989, 12.1% lower than the previous year's \$19 million for the first nine months. Imports fell 23.4% to \$68.3 million, down from \$89.2 million in the corresponding three quarters of 1988.

Academic File

US exports to and imports from the three Arab blocs, ACC, GCC and the MU

January-September 1989
In millions of US dollars

	Exports	Imports
Arab Co-operation Council (ACC)	3,324.7	2,189.6
Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC)	4,530.0	6,707.1
Maghreb Union (MU)	958.4	1,478.0

Between January and September 1989 US exports to Jordan amounted to US\$ 258.6, representing a 3.4% increase over the same period in 1988. However, Jordanian exports to the US fell to US\$ 6.9 million showing 31% decline from the same period in 1988.

three quarters of 1988.

Further up the Gulf, Qatar's exports to the U.S. grew from a negligible \$0.4 million in the first nine months of 1988 to \$42.7 million in January-September, 1989. Trade traffic increased in the opposite direction as well, rising 9.8% to a value of \$75.1 million from January through September 1989, compared to \$68.4 million for the first nine months of 1988.

The (North) Yemen Arab Republic raised its exports to the U.S. by 269.9%, to \$219 million for the period between January and September of last year. In the same period in the previous year, the country sold only \$59.2 million worth of goods to the U.S. Meanwhile imports from the U.S. fell 25% to \$38.6 million in January-September, compared to \$51.4 million in the first three quarters of 1988.

The People's Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen also bought less from the U.S. - \$5.1 million in the first three quarters, 13.6% less than in the same period of 1988. Sales to the U.S. plummeted to only \$0.1 million during January-September 1989, down 99.4% from the \$16.4 million in exports recorded for January-September 1988.

The Gulf cease-fire between Iran and Iraq has not led to any improvement in trade between Iran and the U.S. The Islamic Republic imported goods worth only \$41.4 million between January and September; 24.7% less than the \$55 million recorded for the same period last year. Sales to the U.S. remained minuscule at \$7.4 million, only 5.7%

for the same period last year.

Exports from neighbouring Syria to the U.S. multiplied to \$78.3 million from January through September of 1989. This represents a 254.3% increase over the \$22.1 million value of such exports during the corresponding period in 1988. Trade was nearly balanced in both directions, with imports from the U.S. rising to \$70.1 million, 19.8% higher than in January-September, 1988.

Trade between the U.S. and Jordan held fairly steady. The kingdom imported \$258.6 million worth of U.S. goods during the first nine months of 1989

same nine-month period last year.

Egypt, another major U.S. trading partner in the region, bought \$2,118.8 million worth of U.S. goods between January and September 1989. That figure is 22.5% higher than the \$1,730.3 million recorded for the first three quarters of 1988. However, imports fell 5.5% to \$160.9 million, from \$170.2 million for the same period last year.

Algeria was more successful in exporting to the U.S., selling \$1,351.7 million worth of its products during the first nine months of 1989. This was only slightly less than the \$1,382.1

Jordan's foreign trade statistics
in millions of Jordanian dinars

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Total Exports	290.7	310.8	256.0	315.7	381.5
Domestic Exports	261.1	255.3	245.6	248.8	324.8
Re-exports	29.6	55.5	30.4	66.9	56.7
Total Imports	1,071.3	1,074.4	850.2	915.5	1,022.5
Domestic Imports	1,043.3	1,058.8	850.2	915.5	1,022.5
Re-exports	28.0	15.6	0.0	0.0	0.0

Made-in-Jordan

Exports outlook

While there was talk last week of the 2 per cent decrease in Jordanian exports to EC countries, Assem Hindawi, Director of the Economic Development Department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that Jordanian exports to Arab countries have increased in 1989 and are expected to increase further in 1990.

Trade agreements that Jordan has with other nations or group of nations include, the EC, The Group of 77, The Organisation of Islamic Conference, The Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Arab Common Market and UNCTAD, Hindawi said.

Lack of sufficient rain is expected to have serious effects on the export of Jordanian agriculture produce this year, said an official at the Ministry of Agriculture. While many of the country's agricultural exports suffered last year because of too much or too little rain, this year, he said, "things will be worse if no substantial rain fall comes soon." Olives and olive oil are expected to fall short of supplying the local market needs in 1990, he added.

Industrialists importing raw materials from abroad are expected to face greater difficulties in 1990 because of an increase of customs and tariffs. Subsequently, plans to create "plastic - petrol" based industries are apparently in the making. Although a final agreement has not yet been made, there is a plan to create an industry "which produces plastic materials which are in demand in Jordan and abroad." source JTA

Our Say...

It rises--again

LIKE THE legendary phoenix, *The Star* rises from the ashes of *The Jerusalem Star* which in turn had risen from the legacy of the first *Jerusalem Star* which was published in Arab Jerusalem in 1966.

The birth of *The Star* in 1990 comes after a long and vivid struggle during the last two years and ever since a government-appointed committee replacing an elected board, forced the publishers of *The Jerusalem Star* to suspend its publication on economic grounds. The closure of *The Jerusalem Star* coincided with the advent of a bleak period in the life of the Jordanian press, which included arresting the spirit of free enterprise in the journalistic establishments, an unprecedented government control of free expression and a total disregard to the deterioration of the journalistic profession in general.

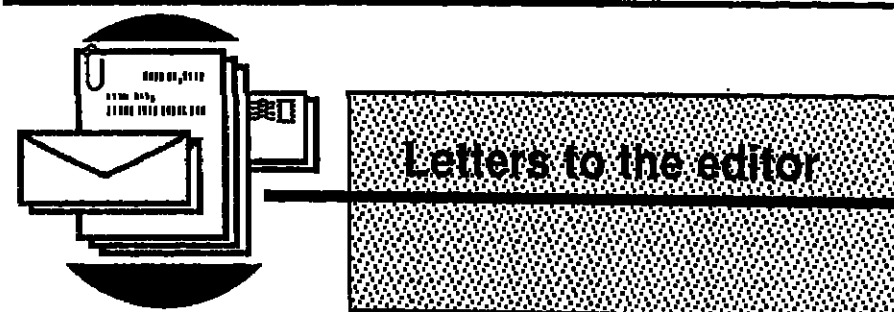
The return to democratic rule in Jordan, breathed life into our dying press. We in *The Star* found both sympathy and understanding from the government of Sherif Zaid bin Shaker, which granted the Chief Editor a licence to publish a weekly English-language news magazine.

Because the previous publishers of *The Jerusalem Star* still had moral claim to the licence, it was impossible for us to use the same name. Thus although the name *Jerusalem* does not appear in our masthead for purely technical and legal reasons, *The Star* continues the same tradition of its predecessor, carrying the torch which *The Jerusalem Star* was forced to drop two years ago.

Our determination to re-launch Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly stems from our deep-seated love for this country and its people. As we pride ourselves today in the unique democratic process under His Majesty King Hussein, we feel that our role in this process is of utmost importance.

The Star will aim at being a forum for ideas and opinions no matter how diverse and colourful they are. As an independent weekly, *The Star* will open its pages to all those who have something to say about the struggle of this country to fulfil its objectives for building a society of equality, for justice and sufficiency.

The task will not be easy, but those involved in the production of *The Star*, young Jordanian men and women, will do their best to make this publication a *Star* in a true sense.



Pleasantly surprised

To The editor:

I WAS lucky to be in your lovely country during the Parliament's vote of confidence session. To tell you the truth I was more than surprised to know that democratic life in Jordan was more than fancy slogan's and government propaganda. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Jordan's parliamentary tradition is as advanced and democratic as in most Western countries today.

I only hope that your lovely country will be spared the turmoil and bloodletting of other Middle Eastern countries. May be Jordan's unique experiment will catch up in neighbouring states and the people of the Middle East can finally enjoy freedom and liberty and perhaps lasting peace.

J. E. Thompson,
London.

The Star

12 THE STAR

Chairman
Mahmoud El-Sherif
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Osama El-Sherif
Editor
Ayman Al-Safadi

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Letter from the chairman: Born Again

PUBLISHING AN English-language weekly newspaper in Jordan is a tough challenge, as has been proved by two failed attempts in the past. This is why the appearance (or should I say the re-appearance?) of *The Star* at this time of economic austerity in Jordan, is considered an act of singular courage and a demonstration of faith and optimism.

There are two redeeming factors, however, which render the new attempt more promising. First, the group of young Jordanians who decided to embark on the new adventure have, at their disposal, a repository of rich experience in the field, which should help them measure up to the challenge. And secondly, the new climate of democracy and freedom of expression in Jordan is conducive, to the emergence of vibrant and dynamic newspapers, and hopefully, to the success of fresh journalistic ventures, such as that of "The Star."

The present "Star" is in fact a continuation of its predecessor "The Jerusalem

Star" which appeared for the first time in Arab Jerusalem in 1966, but had to fold because of economic difficulties. The second "rebirth" of the "Jerusalem Star" took place in July 1982, but was again abruptly ended, by a foolish and an unwarranted "political" decision in the summer of 1988.

Yet in spite of previous setbacks, one detects an inspiring message in the Star's refusal to be laid to rest. Its repeated "resurrections" denotes such a strong lust for life that must ultimately be satisfied.

The Editor and the members of the staff, who produce *The Star*, today are the same group that produced the last "Jerusalem Star"; energetic, dedicated, and united by a common dream, and a common commitment to succeed.

If we believe in the value of building bridges of understanding between our country and the world, let us give them a hand. They do need our encouragement and our support.

Mahmoud El-Sherif

Postscript

by Osama El-Sherif

Beyond the mirror

AND SO a paper is born. It inhales that first and precious breath of life as it rolls out of the thunderous belly of the printing press. Thousands of infant copies are received by the ink-smudged hands of the handlers who bundle them together and send them to their final destinations. A cycle is completed.

Why a newspaper? and why now? I ask myself these questions as I gaze beyond the trashed dummy pages with copy that will never see the face of a reader. Adventure is the answer. Beyond professional and idealistic justifications, the newspaper remains a challenge - a continuous one. Every week it has to appeal to you -- the reader -- in hope that its constituency is getting bigger or at least maintaining itself.

Despite the technical snags that come with Western technologies, the spirit of journalism persists. Through the monotonous humming and buzzing of terminal screens, the quiet burning of paper by laser ink jets and the noticeable absence of that romantic fracas of the typewriter, one could still feel that great presence of the almighty word. The word which changed the face of the earth ever since man transmitted his first whim by scribbling on the face of rocks, the hides of beasts and the carefully-pressed papyrus leaves.

It is more than that, I tell myself. There is a message for all to share, and to discuss while agreeing that only out of controversy can new ideas emerge.

A newspaper should always, in my opinion, remain a medium, never aspiring to vacate this prestigious position. Ideas, messages, and opinions change with time, and evolve like everything else. But, es-

entially, a newspaper remains a faithful medium, that wonderful invention which brings the world to us and releases our minds into unfathomed space of unlimited thinking.

A medium is a more challenging subject than a message, for without it, a message is stifled. I wonder, sometimes, how our world would be if, for some reason, great ideas fail to find the necessary medium that would carry them to the public and release them into the physical world.

And so a newspaper is born, an uneventful event for many; a land-mark to others. It joins hundreds of thousands of other publications around the world, modestly occupying a much-coveted and almost envied place; that of appealing to thousands of readers from all walks of life. A newspaper can still bring more people together than other media, be it a parliament, a national leader or a world figure.

In this world where people are moving further apart from each other, a newspaper is a unique bastion of unity, almost a dinosaur in a world of fast everything, from food to conception to education to death. By crossing political and geographical boundaries, a newspaper carry within itself not only the hopes and aspirations of far-away people, but also common ones which are shared by the majority of this globe's inhabitants.

A free newspaper should be the most democratic medium there is, but it is also a mirror of the society it serves. Whenever that mirror loses its clarity and focus then one can rest assured that the fault is not always that of the mirror, but of the object therein.

The new phase of Israeli oppression

By Dr. As'ad Abdul Rahman

THE PALESTINIAN popular uprising is currently facing the most difficult and delicate phase since its inception in December 1987. The hardships and ordeals to which the Palestinian people have been subjected are hardly practiced by any colonial power now, with the possible exception of the white minority rule of South Africa. This article will focus attention on the hardships of the last two years and will try to shed some light on the new forms of the oppressive measures that are being constantly introduced and used by the various Israeli forces.

In the last few months, it has become obvious that oppression, in its various forms, became a daily routine and practically no class or age category was spared. Curfews imposed by the occupation forces last much longer and cover wider areas. To make matters worse, severe restrictions were imposed to limit the movement of people to and from the Green Line and the forced use of the magnetic cards limited the unidirectional flow of labour. Exorbitant taxes were imposed on travel permits to and from the occupied territories, thus making them a real financial burden beyond the easy reach of the majority of the population.

On the front of "special oppression", Israel made new moves. Aside from club beatings, imprisonment and heavy taxes, occupation authorities have lately resorted to assassination and physical extermination of the leaders and top cadres of the political powers, popular committees and the striking forces. Hit and run Israeli squads were often seen disguised in Red Cross ambulances or press cars chasing armless youth and killing them in a cold-blooded manner. When popular committees were declared illegal, the campaign of terror increased in intensity and proportion. Failure to drive a wedge between the Unified Command of the Intifadah and the Islamic Fundamental Movement despite the ideological disharmony between them forced Israel to declare the latter illegal and its rank and file were subjected to mass arrests and torture.

On the economic front, wide scale speculation and manipulation of the Jordanian dinar helped in its major devaluation in the occupied areas, hence eroding the savings of the majority of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moreover, measures were introduced to limit the flow of money from Palestinian expatriates to their families in the occupied territories. Tax collection was practiced by rapine and the example of Beit Sahour - where the inhabitants were robbed of their furniture and electrical appliances - clearly explains the extent to which the occupa-

tion authorities were willing to go. These and other practices caused widespread moral and financial damage and hardships to the population and created wounds that will probably take decades to heal. Crops and vegetables were intentionally damaged, trees uprooted, and the number of detainees increased by many folds especially after administrative detention was extended to become one full year renewable for another period if need be.

On the educational front, formal education was curtailed by the repeated closures of schools and universities. Even informal popular education became a felony punishable by law. The Israeli authorities, which allowed a "formal come-back" of education on the elementary level to mitigate the mounting international criticism and pressures, not only reversed the decision, but also created the needed opportunities to close most of these schools once again.

Finally, restrictions on the use of live ammunition were eased and the use of rubber and plastic bullets at point blank ranges, was more and more implicitly tolerated. As a result, the number of Palestinians killed, seriously injured or those sustaining permanent disabilities increased tremendously. Major General Isaac Mordachai who, according to the liberal Israeli literature exhibits new ultra fascist tendencies, became commander of the west Bank and the



as Arabs of our moral responsibility towards the increased Israeli atrocities. The question now is not only of a nation struggling to achieve its self-determination and build its independent state with all the hardships that accompany it, but it rather has become an urgent human problem that requires strenuous Arab and international efforts to be exerted to put an end to this multi-sided massacre that has been going on with ever-increasing intensity for the past two years.

Despite all Israeli punitive measures and reprisals we can confidently say that the Intifadah still is and will continue to be, safe and sound. This conclusion is not based on illusion. Far from that, Zev Shev concluded his said editorial by saying that "The new measures employed by the IDF will

no doubt make life harder for the inhabitants (of the occupied territories) and might deplete their capabilities but this should not lead us to the deceptive and hasty conclusion that such measures will end the Intifadah and Palestinian national aspirations. Judging from past experience, the new measures might result in increased Palestinian determination. This is why, sooner or later, the Israeli oppression, like all other occupations before it, is expected to rotate in the vicious circle of violence as more violence will breed more adamance and determination.

The Palestinian leadership has recently exhibited a reasonable degree of moderation. Sabre rattling and meaningless rhetoric gave way to reason. Unfortunately, this mood of Palestinian moderation is not met by a similar mood in Israel. Another historic opportunity to settle this conflict seems to be slipping away. Until such a time when moderation and peace-oriented elements become a force to be reckoned with in Israeli politics, the area is destined to plunge even deeper in violence.

Dr As'ad Abdul Rahman is a professor of political science and a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Central Council of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

View Point

By Malcolm Faber

Baker's disappointment

EVERYTIME THE United States finds itself entangled in a futile effort to advance peace in the Middle East, it resorts to threats that it may abandon its endeavours and look after other world problems where progress is possible.

The latest threat came from US Secretary of States James Baker after the so-called Israeli inner cabinet failed to reach a decision on the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. In her announcement about Baker's dismay at the way things in the Middle East are moving, the US State Department spokeswoman failed again to pinpoint the party responsible for making Baker unhappy about the Middle East, although there was no doubt that it is Israel that is making things difficult for the frustrated US secretary of state.

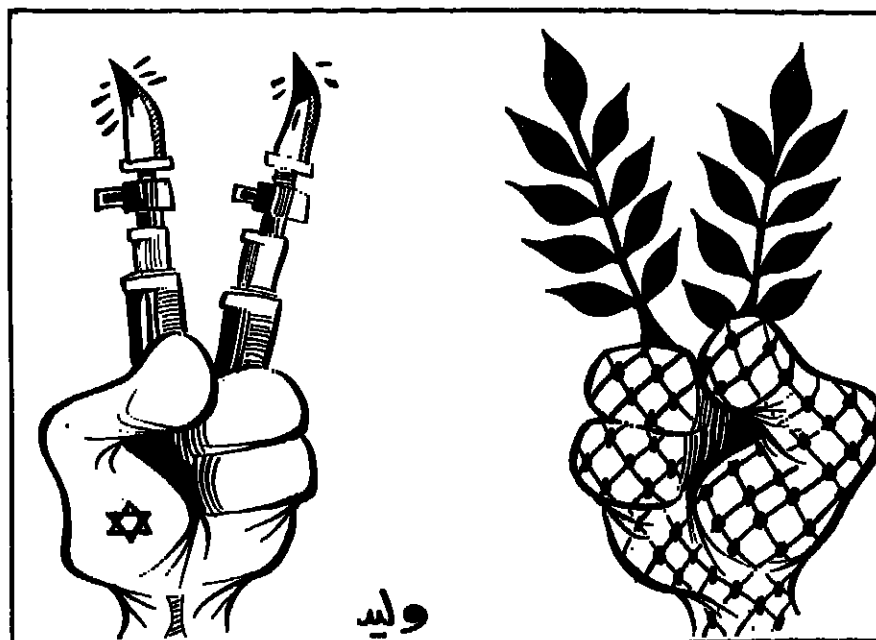
Baker's mild and indirect reproach of Israel's behaviour has made Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir more adamant in his refusal to talk to Palestinians on logical and responsible basis. Shamir already knows that his elections plan will lead to nowhere because he will find neither candidates nor voters willing to challenge a boycott call by the PLO. In other words, Shamir wants to gain more time to try to crush the Palestinian uprising and mislead world public opinion by going through a process that looks democratic but will eventually lead to a new vicious circle.

Is this so difficult for the United States to understand if it is really interested in making progress towards genuine peace in the Middle East? Obviously not. The United States must have realised by now that any attempt to overlook the PLO and ignore its representation power is doomed. It became clear enough that no Palestinian, whether from the occupied territories or the diaspora, is prepared to go along with any plan that is not directly and unequivocally endorsed by the PLO.

This unfortunately leads us to the conclusion that the United States is not really serious in its endeavour to achieve the progress it claims to pursue in the Middle East. The United States knows how Shamir thinks: "Judea and Samaria" are inseparable parts of "greater Israel" which Baker himself described as unrealistic. Any negotiations, which of course must exclude the PLO, must lead only to a very limited self-rule for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The US administration will miss a historic opportunity which may never occur again in so many years. Peace has become accessible more than ever before after the PLO has made substantial concessions and accepted the US-set requirements for peace.

Mr Baker, disappointed as he is, may turn his attention to other areas where progress can be made. But he and his administration will be responsible for the agony that will result from such a decision.



18 JANUARY 1990

THE STAR 13

18 JANUARY 1990

A recipe for stagnation ?

By Salameh Ne'matt

AMMAN - When Jordanians rioted in Ma'an last April, democracy was certainly not on top of the list of demands. Actually, it was not on the list at all. The riots, which shook the country and its psyche, were no more than a protest against price increases and the climbing cost of living. Then why were Jordanians "granted" elections and subsequently democratic reforms and public freedoms when they were merely asking for bread?

The riots came few days after former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's government signed a "structural adjustment agreement" with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which included raising prices of some basic commodities and services such as fuel and licensing fees to narrow the deficit.

Ever since the April events, prices of the same commodities, which prompted the riots, remained at their hiked level and many other commodities and services continued to become more and more expensive and less affordable to the bulk of the Jordanian population. In fact, until this very day, there has been no visible or substantial effort to halt price increases despite the stabilisation of the Jordan dinar and its recently-gained strength against foreign currencies.

There is no point denying that the same agreement and condi-

tions reached between Rifai's government and the IMF were honoured and implemented by the government of Sharif Zaid bin Shaker and are today fully adopted by the present government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran as evident in his government's draft budget presented to parliament last Saturday.

Both governments of Sharif Zaid and Badran have affirmed that they will adhere to Jordan's

tioned in the budget programme, through cutting expenditure and consumption and increasing internal revenues. But have we considered the side effects of this belated adjustment?

What will happen when the government, which is still the driving force behind the economy, retreats from the driver's seat to let a hesitant and disillusioned private sector take over? What will happen when public

price hikes and inflationary pressure.

Logic dictates that people should increase consumption, in other words, buy more, as prices go up because the earlier they buy goods the cheaper they get them at a time of inflation. But this is not what most people are doing, and unfortunately not what the government is doing either. We are saving at a time of inflation which results in a com-

few years.

While there is not much the government is capable of doing in terms of easing economic pressures on people to make sure they stay off the streets as long as it takes to complete the needed adjustment, political possibilities are abundant.

It is from here that comes the logic for holding elections when people were only asking for bread. On the one hand, elections produced a parliament that represents people so that they share the responsibilities of decisions for better or for worse. On the other hand, democratic reforms appeased political activists and neutralised dissidents who would have otherwise sought to capitalise on an economically-frustrated population to make their voice heard through organised unrest in the future.

The democratisation move is the product of a vision that understood the limits of people's tolerance and responded to the necessities of the times. When economic pressure increases, it is only wise to ease political pressure, and this is what Jordan did. But it is the duty of the government to stop painting the situation positively and risk losing credibility. Citizens must be told about the difficult realities and the challenges of the coming few years.

It is true that people asked for bread and were given democracy but who is complaining?

"The government is in a dilemma similar in many ways to the confusion over whether to spend or save more in times of price hikes and inflationary pressure."

agreement with the IMF which implies sticking to a set of conditions that until today have not been totally made public. Whether the draft budget calls the structural adjustment programme a "national" programme for economic reform or anything else is irrelevant for we all know it is a programme designed with the help of the IMF to restructure the economy and redress financial imbalances in the budget deficit and the balance of payments, with the main goal of cutting public spending and government and private sector consumption so as to save enough funds to service the debt and get the economy out of the red.

Indeed, it is a commendable goal to cut the Kingdom's twin deficits to acceptable levels by 1993 and repay the debt as men-

investment is reduced and public employment cut with estimated unemployment running over 16 per cent? What are we doing about inflation and recession? How can an increase in interest rates encourage investments and why the concentration on savings rather than spending at such times of depression?

To be more specific, how can the government resort to cutting private consumption which is a source of employment and economic activity rather than increase consumption in certain sectors to activate the economy? The 1990 budget is a recipe for stagnation despite weak and unconvincing attempts to paint it positively. The government is in a dilemma similar in many ways to the confusion over whether to spend or save more in times of

bination of stagnation and inflation. So we are ultimately saving money which is gradually becoming lower in value because of inflation, postponing purchases until they become more expensive and reducing economic activity that creates jobs and keeps people off the streets.

Unsuspecting citizens may have thought the economic problems would be over as soon as Rifai packs his bag and leaves the prime ministry. But this is not the case. The reasons for which the riots erupted in April are still there and are likely to get worse every year for at least the next five years. In fact economic pressure on citizens today is by far higher than it was last April. This will continue to keep the government under constant popular pressure for the coming

US defence spending - A sickness to be cured?

By Maggie James
Special to the Star

LONDON - Despite the current year's freeze on defence spending by the Bush administration, a necessity to aid the ailing US economy - and perhaps appease the American public - the country will still be spending over \$300 billion on its military budget in the fiscal year which began on 1 October 1989.

Academic Fen Hampson, a professor of international relations at Carleton University in Ottawa, has examined the politics and structure of the US defence budgeting process in the Pentagon and Congress, with especial regard to the purchase of weapons. His book, "Unguided Missiles," published by W.W. Norton & Co., claims to be the fullest and best description yet published of the awesome long and complicated process of weapons acquisition in the United States. It is a process that few Americans, and even fewer in government, understand.

Hampson describes the book as a biography of the lives of weapons - referring to the detailed case histories he has outlined of controversial modern weapons programmes adopted in recent years in the United States. Critical of the sloppiness of the system, Hampson says disparagingly: "Dead reckoning is the term sailors use to describe navigation by the wind and ocean currents when clouds cover the stars. It is navigation by

Mikhail Gorbachev's transformation of Soviet society has generated a change in popular American attitudes towards the USSR. Few among the US public now see the Soviet Union as a huge military threat. As a consequence public opinion has turned against the United States' own high expenditure on expensive new weapons programmes.

improvisation. And it requires more luck than skill. Dead reckoning also describes the way the United States buys its weapons. "It is a process dominated by improvisation and 'ad hocery' in response to shifting political and bureaucratic winds, where politics too often substitute for careful planning and well-designed policies."

The system works to some degree and congressional control over defence spending ensures that most major weapons programmes come under scrutiny. On the other hand, says Hampson, a combination of long lead times from the inception of a weapons programme to its eventual development and the incremental nature of the budgetary process itself exacerbates programme delays, raises costs for major weapons systems, and most important, erodes political accountability.

In addition, the four-year term of presidential appointments contributes to programme instability because weapons usually take longer to build than the time their presidential sponsors hold office, a new incumbent with a new set of defence priorities often puts his predecessor's pet projects on the back burner

UNGUIDED MISSILES
HOW AMERICA BUYS ITS WEAPONS
FEN HAMPSON

while moving others to the fore. Hampson asserts that this also contributes to delays, inefficiencies, and bad management in the process of buying weapons.

Hampson discusses inter-service rivalry regarding weaponry, but explains that although the armed services and different bureaucratic and organisational interest in the federal government are in a fundamentally competitive relationship with one another, the defence budgetary process encourages a co-operative approach to decision making and the fashioning of po-

litical compromises which, once forged, are hard to break.

"What this usually means," he says, "is that even competing programmes in the budget will be funded at sufficient levels to remain viable. When resources are scarce, funds will be cut but rarely will major programmes be cancelled outright. Faced with the trade-off between efficiency and bureaucratic harmony, efficiency will get the short end of the stick in programming and budgeting choices."

Examining the origins and development of the Strategic Defence Initiative, or SDI, known as the 'Star Wars' programme, which was introduced by President Ronald Reagan, Hampson clarifies that SDI is not a single weapons system but a research programme involving a myriad of technologies and potential weapon systems. It is still in the early stage of development and has already cost billions of dollars.

He observes that the remarkable thing about SDI is that it acquired considerable momentum as a research programme despite formidable opposition and scepticism not only in Congress but

also throughout the research and scientific community.

"If past history is any guide, SDI may be slowed but it is unlikely to die at the hands of Congress. The story of SDI is one of budgetary compromises that have given the programme just enough resources to splutter (some would say run) along," he adds.

Hampson is of the opinion that America's arsenal is predictable, inevitable and wasteful and the way it buys its weapons is a supremely political process plagued by inefficiency, waste, and political mismanagement.

He claims that the root of the problem is deceptively obvious: bureaucratic and political interests approach weapons acquisition and defence budget issues as "non-zero sum games"; that is, as games where there are rewards and payoffs to all parties from co-operation or collusion.

Although a special Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisitions has recently been appointed in America, it is the author's contention that much-needed reform will occur only if the public recognises the severity of the problem and pressure for reform grows. But Hampson goes further and opines that it is also necessary that leadership in Congress and by the president ensures that reform is carried out and defence is based on what the nation can afford.

18 JANUARY 1990

By JoMarie Fecci
Special to The Star

DONNING MASKS to conceal their identities, a group of boys emerge out of the hectic Bethlehem marketplace to begin a series of events that is repeated in other cities and villages throughout the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip each day. The stone-throwing demonstrations that have become the hallmark of the intifada continue despite a decrease in media coverage. Israeli efforts to put a quick end to the uprising have failed.

After more than two years the uprising has become institutionalized. Demonstrations occur on such a regular basis that they often appear to adhere to a schedule. At the hospitals doctors know what time to expect the gunshot casualties. Palestinian children play "soldier and Shabbab (youth)." Some Israeli settlers have installed heavy wire screens on their car windows.

The stone-throwing episodes are sometimes spontaneous confrontations started by small groups of boys burning tires. When the Israeli army respond, the boys pelt the soldiers with rocks. Without even leaving their jeeps, the patrol usually fires tear gas to disperse the boys, then leaves.

More dangerous are the daily incidents tagged the "professional intifada" by some members of the press. These well-organized demonstrations are the ones that seem to occur "on schedule."

The masked boys belong to various factions of the Palestinian resistance. Sometimes burning tires, sometimes running through the streets waving the banned Palestinian flag, the shabbab draw the Israeli army into a conflict that pits boys with stones against soldiers with guns. The goal of the boys is to keep the demonstration going for as long as possible and then to escape unharmed. The goal of the occupation authorities is to stop the demonstration and try to apprehend the instigators.

These confrontations often result in gunfire and, particularly at the end of the summer, in increasing numbers of casualties.

The Shabbab physically throw the rocks, but the community is united behind them. During the larger, more organised demonstrations, it is not unusual to see women and young children gathering rocks to supply the youths. Community members also act as "lookouts," to alert the demonstrators to approaching soldiers. Others assist by hiding them or helping them escape.

Factional differences are ignored during the demonstrations. Even Hamas (Arabic acronym for the Islamic Resistance Movement), which is not part of the unified leadership, demonstrates alongside the nationalist and the communists in some villages. A reported early Israeli policy of encouraging the Hamas movement was aimed at dividing the Palestinian community. The policy proved ineffective.

The Human Costs

Since the uprising began on 9 December, 1987, the Gaza Strip alone has suffered 26,029 casualties as of early August, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This figure includes 14,000 beatings requiring hospitalisation or

The Intifada : Explosion and restraint



There is no justification for some of the violations of human rights. Maintaining the occupation also has not been without cost to the Israelis. As of September 11, 1989 about 816 soldiers had been wounded in intifada-related violence and seven had been killed.

medical care and 3,817 gunshot wounds from both plastic and live bullets. The gunshot wounds accounted for 158 of the 190 fatalities recorded in Gaza during this period.

Maintaining the occupation also has not been without cost to the Israelis. As of 11 September, 1989, 816 soldiers had been wounded in intifada related violence and seven had been killed, according to the Israeli government.

There is little validity to the Israeli soldiers' claim to a need for self-defence when under a barrage of large rocks traveling at high velocities. Israeli policy attempts to keep the level of response appropriate to the threat. Soldiers are allowed to shoot in response to the throwing of Molotov cocktails and when a veiled person advances to attack after being warned. Occupation soldiers also are instructed to incapacitate rather than kill, which in practice means aiming at the leg.

While many soldiers try to follow the official policy, some do not. Certain units have particularly bad reputations for using unacceptable force. The Border Police is known for brutal beatings. An Israeli soldier unit with a reputation for viciousness, the Givati, has been accused of a disproportionate number of shootings - some under very questionable circumstances.

There is no justification for some of the violations of human rights. One particularly brutal case related by an UNRWA worker involved a man who had been shot just 20 meters from a Gaza hospital. The soldiers involved refused to allow him to be taken to the hospital. When a group of doctors came out and attempted to assist the man, the soldiers prevented their "interfer-

ence." The man bled to death. After he died, the soldiers threw the body over a wall across the street from the hospital.

Many children have been wounded or killed during the uprising. It is not unusual to find hospital wards filled with 12- to 14-year-old boys. UNRWA has documented many cases of children 10 and under who were treated for gunshot wounds.

Some people claim that the soldiers don't follow policy and shoot blindly into crowds. There are even accusations of youths being shot intentionally, but none involves very young children.

Others charge that the Palestinians, in a question for publicity, put children in the line of fire. But no mother sends her children to be shot. Most Palestinian mothers do what any mother would do in similar circumstances - tell her young children to stay out of the streets when demonstrations are in progress.

The many spontaneous incidents make it impossible to keep the children out of harm's way at all times. And as sons grow older they often go out to demonstrate with the other boys in defiance of their mother's wishes.

The death toll has not deterred the Palestinians from continuing the uprising. Flyers with the names and photographs of "martyrs" can be seen on walls in many villages. The deaths and injuries, particularly those involving brutality, make the Palestinians more determined to resist.

"Political schools"

"Political schools" is how the young boys refer to the prisons where a growing number of Pal-

estins are kept in "administrative detention" for security offenses. Under the occupation, Palestinians charged with security crimes are brought before a military court, which has not found a single defendant innocent. UNRWA reports. The 100 percent conviction rate and the arbitrariness of the detention system creates a climate of active support for the uprising.

UN representatives are not immune from charges of security offenses and can be arrested. At the beginning of August there were 34 UNRWA staff members under administrative detention. On August 7, two men in plainclothes, reportedly carrying Uzi machine guns, drove a civilian car with white Gaza license plates into the Gaza City UNRWA headquarters and arrested an UNRWA employee.

Administrative detention often leads to the demolition of houses. The security forces may order a house destroyed as punishment if a member of the resident family has been charged with a security offense. The demolitions policy is cited in a U.S. State Department report on human rights violations.

A typical case involved a Nuseriat Camp family of 13. Their house was destroyed after the detention of one son last May. They were unable to see him for three months while he was under interrogation. The civil administration's regulations require that visitors be allowed after a person has been held in detention for 18 days, but not including the time a person is under interrogation. While the family is told their relative has been detained, they are unable to visit or receive any news.

The family now live on the site of their demolished home in two tents provided by the International Red cross. Although the government can confiscate the property and prohibit the former owners from living there, families usually remain on their land in the Red Cross-supplied tents.

In August the Israeli Supreme Court ruled against the Israeli army stipulating that Palestinian families must be given 48 hours to appeal a demolition order. As yet, no appeal has been successful in overturning a demolition order. A family of 15, also from Nuseriat Camp, had their house demolished within a few days of the new ruling. They used the appeal period to remove some of their possessions from their house. Ironically, these policies make the Palestinians more defiant.

In the Old City of Jerusalem each day between 11 a.m. and noon, Border Police walk through the market in the Muslim Quarter and kick over merchants' displays and empty old women's baskets of fruit into the street. Such actions are counter to government policy and reinforce the Palestinians' sense of persecution.

Economic Ramifications
The intifada has severely hurt some sectors of the Palestinian economy. Many tourists have put off a visit to Israel, which has particularly affected tourism enterprises in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Hebron and Jericho. The noon shop closings and frequent general strikes that shorten the hours shops are open for business also have hurt the economy. The small factories that produce ceramics and olive-wood figurines have had losses. After the first year of the uprising, one small manufacturer of ceramic plates and cups in Hebron saw a 50 per cent loss in business. Most factories keep in business by accepting less profit - a strategy that can work in the short run.

Despite the general economic malaise, some companies have actually prospered because of the intifada. Manufacturers producing items for consumption in the West Bank and Gaza have gained business as the Palestinian boycott of Israeli products has increased consumption of Palestinian goods. But the overall reduction in disposable income attributable to the shorter hours and general strikes tempers this effect.

An uncertain Future
Despite the apparent bleakness of their situation, many Palestinians in the occupied territories feel they are close to achieving their preliminary goals. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's proposal to hold elections is viewed as a success of the intifada although the Shamir plan is far from what they want, it demonstrates that the uprising has put pressure on the Israeli government.

Some Palestinians look to the United States to move the process along, but the expectations following last winter's U.S. recognition of the PLO have failed to materialize.

As long as the Palestinians continue current intifada tactics of rock throwing and civil disobedience, major Israeli military actions would appear excessive. Were the Palestinians to escalate to armed insurrection, however, the Israeli government would have justification for stronger military response.

THE STAR 15

'God help the Israelis and the Palestinians !

An Interview with Khaled El-Hassan

Editor's Note: Khaled El-Hassan, one of the founders of Falah and the PLO, is chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Palestine National Council. He gave the following interview to the editor of Israel & Palestine Report (Paris), which published it in its December issue.

I&P: Dr. El-Hassan, could you comment about where the "peace process", as people call it, is now?

Khaled El-Hassan: I don't think that there is now a peace process. There was a peace plan, which was suggested by the PNC last year in Algiers, and there is what's called the Shamir peace plan, which has nothing to do with peace because Shamir still insists that peace be made with the Arabs and not with the Palestinians. Shamir refuses not only to recognise the Palestinian people but also to recognise their right to make peace with the Israelis, even though they are the people who live in the occupied territories.

I hope the Americans will be able to move things so that a process will start. Up to now, nothing has started.

I&P: Do you perceive a change in American policy since the meetings with (US Ambassador to Tunis) Pellerreau?

Khaled El-Hassan: There is a change, but that change has not yet reached the point where the Americans could force things - the way, for instance, that Carter did at Camp David. They are still dealing with Shamir, using very timid language. They are pricking Shamir with certain news items now and then, they are talking about the necessity of including the PLO in the peace process, but they have not yet taken a step that would force

Shamir to think twice before he says no.

I&P: In other words, things are stagnating to a certain degree.

Khaled El-Hassan: I think maybe more than that. I'm sure that, as one of Shamir's aides said, the strategy of the Likud is to slow down the motion. They say they do this in order to make things go the proper way. But I think they do this to gain time,



Khaled El-Hassan: the intifada is a people's phenomenon

to let the intifada become more and more tired so that maybe the intifada will stop.

I'm very sorry to tell everybody that the intifada is not just the result of an order given, such that when the order is issued there will be an intifada and when a counter-order is issued there will be no more intifada. The intifada started without an order. Although the people of the intifada were loyal to the PLO, are related to the PLO leadership and believe in the unity of the cause - the people and the leadership - this is a people's phenomenon, and it cannot stop just by orders given from here or there.

And it's becoming a sort of a way of life for Palestinians. Those who do not understand the Palestinians, the tragedy they

were made to suffer, will always underestimate the power of the Palestinians to resist occupation.

I&P: Some commentators in the Israeli press and peace camp have been warning that the intifada will any day now break out into armed insurrection. What is your view?

Khaled El-Hassan: I think that the people - who for two years were disciplined not to use arms,

that Jewish thinkers accept this; and I don't think that, in the long run, the Palestinians will be disciplined forever. God knows what may happen. But I hope the intifada will continue the way it is.

I&P: If you were to give a time-frame, off the top of your head, how much time do we have before everything blows up?

Khaled El-Hassan: Really, I can't say. It depends on how the Israelis use this iron-fist policy. They did it in Beit Sahour; it was about to blow up. If they repeat again what they did in Beit Sahour, it may blow up. So it depends on the Israelis, not on our people.

I&P: Do you have any hopes for the United States having any mitigating effects on the Israelis, in that context?

Khaled El-Hassan: It's not a matter of hope, it's a matter of interest. If the Americans are serious about detente and the Soviets are serious about detente, it means the Cold War will be seriously over. And if the Cold War is seriously over, then all the regional problems have to be solved politically. So the more serious and sincere they are about detente, the more serious they are in dealing with the Middle East question. Because the Middle East question is the key of the wars of proxy all over the Third World, which have to stop when the Cold War stops. Therefore, I think that for the first time the Americans are convinced of the need for peace. Before they were lying to us, and the Soviets were lying. Now I don't think they are, because they're sincere about detente.

I&P: There were reports in the international press that at the last meeting of the PLO Executive some voices were raised, and

some abstentions too, because people no longer agreed with the PNC's peace plan, Arafat's peace plan. How significant are such voices, if they exist?

Khaled El-Hassan: You know that the decision concerning the peace plan was taken by majority. So there is an opposition, and that's normal. And you know that the votes of the Popular Front, of George Habash, were given in favour of the peace plan on one condition: that if nothing happens within three or four years then we all have to reconsider our thinking. Therefore, it's very natural that between now and then, especially when we get vague and ambiguous answers from the Americans, that you find people who are angry and who say: "What are we getting from the peace plan? We are getting nothing. Look at the Americans, the way they are talking to us."

Maybe that's why the Americans invented a new expression when they said to us "constructive ambiguity." You see, when we used to talk about ambiguity, they used to tell us that all our statements were ambiguous and that this is why they rejected them. Now, when the Americans are ambiguous, they described their ambiguity as "constructive ambiguity."

I&P: Well, they've learned something from you.

Khaled El-Hassan: We didn't want them to learn ambiguity. We want them to learn something else. Anyhow, I hope they will finally realise that time is not in favour of peace, that time may transfer the intifada to certain Arab streets. And this means that the whole Middle East would go up in flames. If so, God help the Israelis and the Palestinians after wards.

No longer an exercise...

Continued from page 3

(the government) are going to honour all these pledges. We have started to draw a list of what we had pledged and we will do it in a gradual manner and I hope in few months, not later than six months, we will have honoured everything that we have promised.

Q: When can we stop calling the Jordanian democratic process an experiment and refer to it as a way of life for Jordan? would it take months, years...?

A: From the way I see things I believe it is settling. I am very optimistic. I don't see any real problem. We have to remind ourselves that we had elections for a legislative council as far as 1928 and Jordanians are extremely resourceful and I believe they know the interest of their country. They had experience in many aspects of their lives with democratic institutions and, in the absence of parliament, many

other institutions have been functioning, like the unions for instance, during the very different stages of our (political) life. And we had ups and downs with the press but the press has helped all through to convey the

"...one thing I am sure of is that in any democracy you have to have political parties..... and I think people who are interested in the political process have been forming parties for many years."

opinion of the opposition in the country. So we are not coming from a vacuum.

People are extremely ready to function in a democratic society and I am very optimistic about it, we are going to succeed in this exercise. It is not an exercise, I hope we can stop calling it an exercise... it should be a way of life... rather a very normal way of life.

Q: How do you think the Jorda-

nian democratic process will affect neighbouring countries?

A: I really don't know. Every country has its own political structure. But I would like to emphasise two points, which are getting to be internationally ac-

cepted; you can't abuse human rights and you cannot abuse nature. You cannot as a society or as a government abuse human rights. I think this had gone over board and it's not a local matter anymore. Any government anywhere has got to be very careful about excessiveness in any way against any human being. So I believe these are two things which are going to evolve in every society.

formation had caught us rather unprepared to answer all the questions. So I don't have any answers about all perceptions. But I repeat that the role of the Ministry, and I hope I am not exaggerating, is changing. We are going to study the best possible way of preserving the national character of our information institutions. But to be very practical and pragmatic we have to know all the limitations that we are working under.

Q: It seems that the people are not waiting for the government to allow them to form political parties... they are lobbying and debating all over the country... what are your views on this?

A: I can't answer you about any timetable regarding the formation of political parties. But one thing I am sure of is that in any democracy you have to have political parties. When this is going to be formed is not yet clear and I think people who are interested in the political process have been forming parties for many years. So now it is a little bit more public, I think. Jordanians have been in one way or another grouping themselves, some with political inclinations, others with ideological inclinations, but you can't imagine a society with rather educated and resourceful people like in our country where people are going to stand still. They have been debating this all the time but now you can see it more because it is more open.

'The UN is becoming vulnerable'

By Masood Haider
Special to The Star

UNITED NATIONS, New York - The 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly was embroiled in one of the most dramatic and painful debates on the issue of enhancing the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) status from the observer mission to a state - like that given to Switzerland and North and South Korea.

The resolution, which was tabled by the Arab states, had almost total support from the member states with the exception of the United States and Israel. However, the unconditional support from the Soviet Union and other communist countries began to crumble with the winds of freedom fanning the Eastern Bloc.

The absence of critical Soviet support - which had become lukewarm following the meeting between President Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev in Malta - and the threat from the United States to withhold its already dwindling contribution to the world body, scuttled the resolution. At the end of the debate the Arab countries, which still contended that they had enough support to carry the resolution through, had to settle for the supreme compromise in order to save the United Nations from financial ruin.

Had the threat from the United States worked? Diplomats attending the assembly assessed that it had! The result was total capitulation to the wishes of the United States.

The perceived threat of the withdrawal of US funds was also instrumental in watering down the resolution on apartheid, and the clauses which condemned Israel's collusion with South Africa in the arena of nuclear technology had to be dropped. Even the fiery General Joseph Gorbachev, the president of the General Assembly, was at a loss while explaining the tactics of give and take and compromise at his press conference.

At his news conference, the United States Ambassador, Thomas Pickering, expressed pleasure at the outcome of the debate on apartheid, but he particularly lauded the joint Soviet and American efforts to defer the resolution on the PLO.

In an exclusive interview, Ambassador Clovis Maksoud of the Arab League gave his assessment of the debate on the question of the PLO's status and the South Africa question:

Q: At his press conference, US Ambassador Pickering proclaimed victory at the deferment

Interview: Arab League's UN Ambassador, Clovis Maksoud, was interviewed by Academic File about the American arm-twisting at the recent UN General Assembly session.

of the PLO resolution brought by the Arab countries. Do you think that the perceived American threat to cut off its United Nations contribution worked against you?

A: Ambassador Pickering is trying to resort to an interpretation which unfortunately, if accepted as a victory, would constitute a dangerous precedent. To use financial blackmail as an instrument of scuttling debate on an issue is an indication of a big power bullying the United Na-

tioned in recent years a definite improvement in the sensitivity of public opinion in the United States towards Palestine, which has been stifled by American policy. There is a definite discrepancy between public judgement in the United States and the public policy. Ambassador Pickering's view represents public policy.

Q: Mr Pickering also observed that one of the biggest reasons for the Arab countries to bring



Q: What about US Vice-President Dan Quayle's recent visit to the United Nations, when he called for a repeal of the United Nations resolution equating 'Zionism with racism'?

A: We welcome the debate on this Zionism issue, because it will provide us with the opportunity to throw light on the reality of Zionism as a form of racism and the proof of the matter is that the law of return spells out that every Jew is entitled to instant citizenship, whereas every non-Jew has to prove continuous residence since 1948. So this is entrenched and institutionalised discrimination. If they want to open this Pandora's box, we will debate it throughout this year and then the atmosphere will be charged in a manner that the so-called peace processes will become marginalised.

Q: What about the Baker Plan? Do you think it is a viable process towards an international conference on the PLO issue?

A: I think that there has been a conceptual exaggeration of the Baker plan. It is a procedural suggestion elevated to the notion of plan because it comes from a superpower. But this plan is only viable if the PLO openly authorises and recognises it.

Q: What is your overall opinion on the 44th session of the General

assembly, including the apartheid resolution, which in the opinion of many diplomats was watered down due to compromises?

A: I think that the Third World countries have to realise that we need to restructure our non-aligned policy so as to take into account the growing detente between the two superpowers, which will create a new structural international scene. It will be South and North debating, instead of nonaligned against aligned.

Q: What about the USSR and Eastern Bloc countries who withdrew support for the resolution?

A: I think they agree with us on one aspect, the protection of the United Nations system, which led them to persuade us not to go ahead with the resolution. They did not share the views of the United States. They showed the universal anxiety and concern about the United Nations, because the extreme measures to which the United States resorted was unbelievable, and people were unprepared for such a level of extremity in threatening the United Nations.

Insight
By
Dr. Nabil Al-Sharif

The Invisible walls

AT A time when winds of democratic and reforms are sweeping all across Eastern Europe, and winds of unity and economic integration are blowing all over Western Europe, the Arab citizen is following all of these rapid changes with frustration, anxiety and anticipation.

The Arab citizen, who is witnessing the coming down of walls, both visible and invisible, that used to stand between East and West, is asking the most pressing question: When will our walls come down?

It is true that, unlike the infamous Berlin Wall, our walls of segregation, separateness and exclusion are not concrete, material structures. But it is also true that the 'invisible' wall that obstruct Arab integration are much more solid and well-entrenched than the Berlin Wall which has lost its clout on 9 November, 1989 when many of its foundations gave way under popular pressure from East Germans who 'voiced with their feet' and crossed the wall to West Germany.

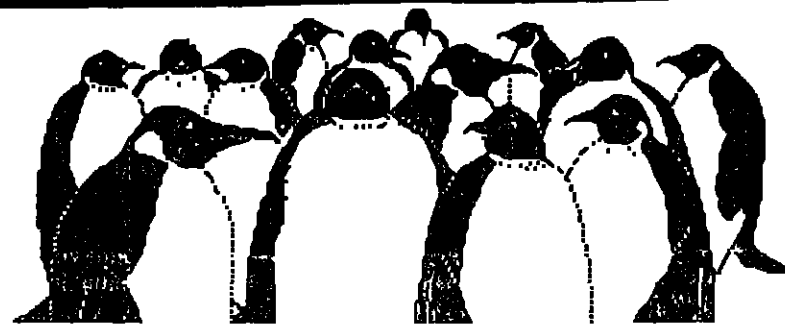
The invisible Arab walls that stand in the way of Arab integration and hamper the efforts of our nation to join in the march of freedom, which is spanning the globe, will only come down when Arabs realize that mistrust, injustice and disintegration which form the foundation of our hated walls, will never be able to resist the global winds of reform.

The one question that remains is: Will we have the required far-sightedness and wisdom and allow these walls to come down uneventfully and peacefully, or will we continue to hold on to out-dated formulas and obsolete practices, contributing, therefore, to unpredictable consequences that could have far-reaching impact on our existence as a nation?

It should be noted, however, that some Arab countries were quick to respond to the winds of global change. Jordan should be given credit for being one of the earliest Arab countries to join in the global march towards freedom.

But the coming down of walls on a local level, important as it is, will have its full and meaningful impact only if it is matched by the destruction of the walls of suspicion that separate us.

It is the obligation of all Arabs to see to it that these invisible Arab walls come down as quickly as possible, opening the way for a better and brighter future for our nation.



Around Town

Under Royal patronage the Second Annual Queen Alia Horse Jumping tournament was held at the Arabian Horse Club last week in co-operation with InterContinental Hotel, Jordan.

Participants from Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia competed for two days and the proceeds of this event were dedicated to welfare projects.



The Armenius Quintet

sad, Maj. Gen. Salem Turk and InterContinental Hotel General Manager Majid Khalil.

The West German Armenius Quintet's concert (Tuesday evening) reminded us that live performances beat recordings hands down in many respects. No money-spinner this, the Goethe Institute in co-operation with Noor Al-Hussain Foundation, gives a real service in Amman by providing music ensembles, rather than only the more easily-funded piano soloists.

The Mozart provided an affable "divertissement" which put us in the mood for the more substantial "wind Quintet in D major" which followed. Between these two works we were given "Young Person's Guide" to the Quintet instruments by each member in turn: Peter Brechtel (bassoon), Katharina Ehl-

broker (flute), Harald Heim (horn), Katharina Kammerloher (oboe) and Thomas Backhaus (clarinet). Their performance was lively through out, the Rossini technically impressive and the Hindemith dramatic, alternating lyrical sensitivity with youthful ebullience.

Both the Hindemith and the Debussy emmcere were adequate proof that 20th century music can be listener-friendly. More modern works in Jordanian concert programmes would be invigorating.

Her Majesty Queen Noor attended the concert.

Rasha Al-Bustami and Emad Dudin celebrated their wedding last Thursday. The young couple will leave to the United States where they will be making their home.

Scrapbook

Newspaper as an art

MORE THAN a year ago when a newspaper was put to sleep there was a temporary fluster among those who read it, accounts of its history were related among those who had heard of it and several comments were distributed from among the comment-slingers who hadn't heard of the newspaper but who were, as usual quite right.

No matter. Reading material of any kind or standard is rarely an issue in a country where reading has not yet become as essential as food. And it has to, one day. Quality reading material and reading habits are sad subjects to discuss. We have yet to meet the people (and those youngsters) whose reading addictions often get in the way of other more sociable, though less rewarding customs. We have yet to encounter those vast numbers of children and adults who delight in reading for the sake of reading and not purely through academic pressure.

We will continue to grieve for a while yet. But not for too long. Professional writing is fast becoming a goal, though high and mighty attitudes stall the potentials of many. To accept and make use of criticism is not a practice peppered out too generously in our social customs.

But what of that? In spite of everything people move on. The Star reappears refreshed, out of the intellectual turmoil that we breathe (that well-known intellectual setting that we artificially force upon ourselves). The Star reappears regenerated, out of the pecuniary wariness that we have to live with. But The Star will see a different world from that of a year ago: A clear coast for writing and a less bridled attitude towards self-expression.

Does that make a difference? I suppose it does if we are able to blend art into our way of thinking. And a newspaper needs all the art it can get. By art I mean non-conformity to self-restrictions. For the truth is that we are also bound by rigid and extremely conformist, perhaps even repetitive, styles of thought and writing. So there we have a problem that comes not from without but from within. (Now that's a commonplace expression).

A newspaper is an art form. It can survive without art just as a child can survive without love: distantly. And it is also probably true that we have not yet reached the stage where we can combine honest writing (which we have) with pleasantry and ingenuity. And writing is too often pasted out for us and if we are not careful, we will soon come to accept it as a rule. Eventually, it all boils down to information and art. The technical and the creative. Hardware and software. No-one can claim to be too efficient at both since one is so different from the other. Journalistic know-how is a life-long course.

The Star has returned to the world field now. It had to, not in spite of the challenges, but because of them. The knack for political and cultural expression is there, itching to be let loose. About time. For how can we, as readers, live by one English newspaper alone?

Haya Hussein



Agenda

Lectures

Dr Najm El-Deen Yousef of Yarmouk University will deliver a lecture on "Coastal Management: Example: The Coastal Zone of Jordan. Tuesday, 23 January at the Goethe Institute, 7:00 pm.

Film

The American Centre presents the feature film "La Bamba", starring Esai Morales, Rosana Sotelo and Elizabeth Pena. On Thursday 18 January at 7:00 pm. The French Centre presents the feature film "La Femme d'a cote", starring Francois Truffaut and Fanny Ardant. On Monday 22 January at 8:00 pm.

Meetings

The General Meeting of the Friends of Archaeology will be held 22 January at 7:00 pm, at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre auditorium. A slide lecture on Jordan's rich archaeological heritage will be presented by Dr Bert De Vries.



'Ready, set ... win !'

THE ORTHODOXY basketball team proved again that it is the undisputed champ in this game when they beat Al Ahli, their traditional rivals, last Sunday 86/65 at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace. While the final outcome of the game did not surprise many, the fact that the 12-member team were sponsored by Apple Computer company did. The famous Apple logo on the players' shirts made some spectators wonder if the prodigious Macintosh had anything to do with the Orthodox's successful playing tactics.

Wedlock

Lubna Al Khalili to Omar Al Usta.

Amal Issa Tashman to Ziad

Saleh Haddad.

Rana Ahmad Issa to Gamal Abu Laban.

Suba Taleb to Osama Issa.

Nancy Nsour to Bassam Nsour.

18 JANUARY 1990

Far Side creator is back at the drawing table

KANSAS CITY, MO. - After a 14-month creative hiatus, The Far Side cartoonist Gary Larson is back to the drawing table and the first of his new comic panels has appeared in more than 900 newspapers beginning 1 January, 1990, announced Universal Press Syndicate (UPS) President John P. McMeel.

After nearly 10 years of producing one of the most successful panels in comic history, Gary Larson took a break from cartooning beginning 30 October, 1988. Newspapers have been receiving selections from Larson's earliest works to run during the sabbatical.

"We are delighted to have Gary Larson sitting back down to the drawing table in 1990," said McMeel, "and very proud to be announcing that his new cartoons will appear in more newspapers than before the sabbatical. Fans of The Far Side have been a loyal audience and continue to grow in number. This is certainly testimony to Gary's extraordinary and unique talent."

With Larson's return, there are some changes

in the frequency of The Far Side.

"I currently feel fresh and recharged, and a reduced workload I'm sure will play a big role in maintaining that feeling," said Larson. "But, as I'm sure anyone who has had an opportunity to take a full year off will agree, that first Monday morning back to work is quite a sobering experience."

Currently, Gary Larson's 'The Pre-History of The Far Side: A 10th Anniversary Exhibit (Andrews and McMeel) is No. 1 on The New York Times Paperback Best Seller list. "This rich volume chronicles the birth and evolution of the popular comic strip 'The Far Side,'" wrote The New York Times Book Review, "... a glimpse into the crafting of the cartoons and the work-

ings of his funny, brilliant, bizarre mind."

More than 15 million collections of The Far Side have been sold and for 1990 alone, nearly 4 million calendars have been purchased. The first book, The Far Side, is in its 31st printing with nearly 1.2 million copies.

Following is an interview with recharged Larson:

Q: Why did you take a sabbatical?

Larson: Simply exhaustion. Unlike most professions, cartoonists are rarely afforded vacation time, and any time away from the drawing table generally has to be "earned" by an increase in output. And increasing my output from seven cartoons a week to eight or more was something I was never good at. After nine years of deadlines, I needed a break.

Q: What did you do during your sabbatical?

Larson: My wife and I did some traveling - Africa at the start of my time away and the Amazon

months where I took advantage of an opportunity to study jazz guitar with a couple of great musicians.

Q: Did you do any drawing? Did you find yourself thinking of ideas?

Larson: Aside from an album cover for the jazz guitarist Herb Ellis, I didn't draw a thing, and the few ideas I wrote down were things that seeped in unavoidsly. Basically, I felt the purpose of my sabbatical would have been nullified by cartooning, and I avoided the drawing table like the plague.

Q: Do you have any plans to change The Far Side upon your return? Will cows, anthropomorphized animals and grumpy people still populate the panel? Will anything be different?

Larson: "I've sometimes toyed with the idea of exploring new 'territory' in my work, or making some departures from familiar themes and characters - but, realistically, it would probably be hard for me to change my stripes. I don't think I'll be introducing any cute little animal

characters any time soon.

Q: Which cartoons were some of your favourites that appeared as "classics" in newspapers during your sabbatical?

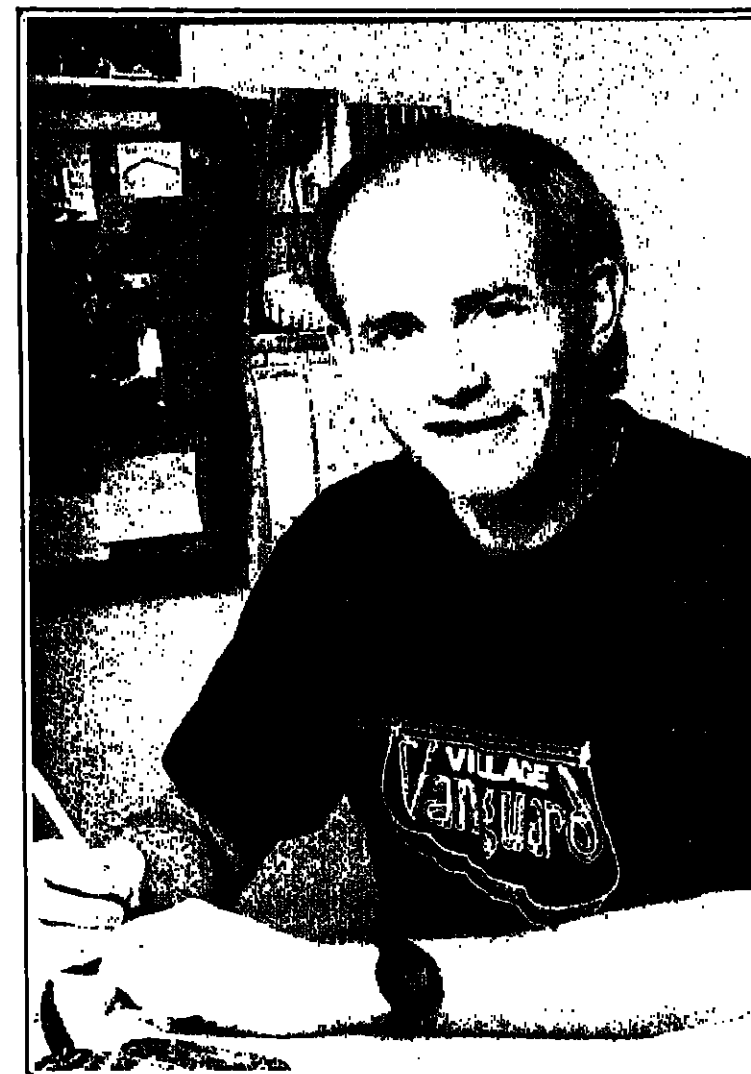
Larson: First of all, I should say here that I was never all that comfortable with the word "classic" attached to my past work. Humor is both so subjective and ephemeral that "classic" seemed to attach a little too much significance to the act of rerunning an old cartoon. Regardless, those cartoons that were selected were done so on one basic criterion. They were not cartoons that would embarrass me all over again.

Q: Have you been eager to return to the drawing board?

Larson: Mixed feelings, truthfully. I currently feel fresh and recharged, and a reduced workload I'm sure will play a big role in maintaining that feeling. But, as I'm sure anyone who has had an opportunity to take a full year off will agree, that first Monday morning back to work is quite a sobering experience. Overall, it feels good to be back.

Q: Did you do anything to prepare for your return?

Larson: I did 50 finger push-ups every day for a week, and I made sure all my pencils were sharp.



Larson: "It's good to be back.."

History of The Far Side, what made you decide to make it a little different than your typical Far Side collection? Did you work on it during your time off?

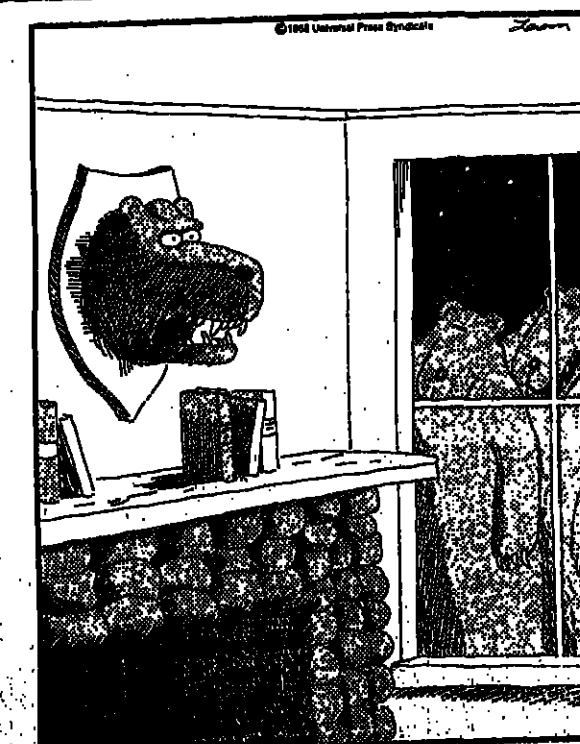
Larson: Most cartoonbooks, including my own, fall into a fairly predictable format. I was always curious about expanding on that form, and PreHistory was the outgrowth of that concept. Over the years of drawing The Far Side, I had culled a fair amount of crude sketches, rejected cartoons, mail, anecdotes, etc., and with my publisher's help and encouragement, we pulled a lot of it together.

The Far Side

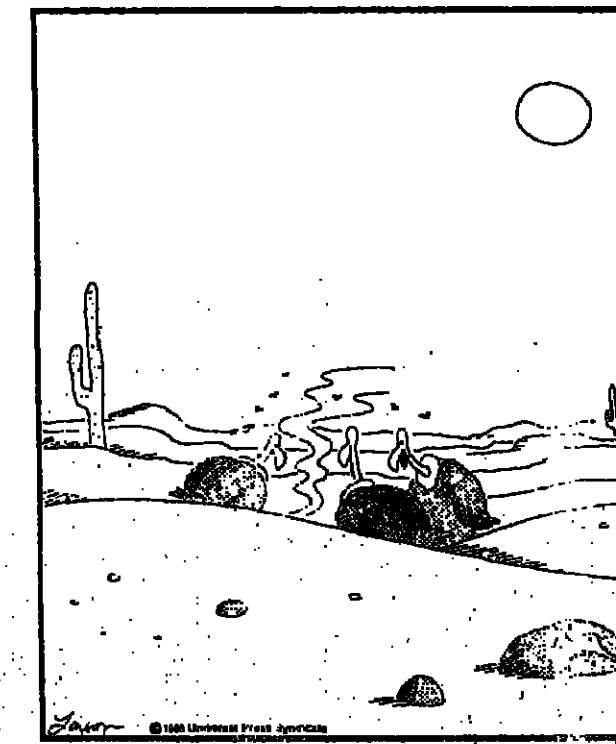
By Gary Larson



"You know, it's really dumb to keep this right next to the cereal. In fact, I don't know why we even keep this stuff around in the first place."



"It's vince, all right. It's his nose, his mouth, his fur ... but his eyes - there's something not quite right about his eyes."



"Ooooweeel! This thing's been here a loooooong time. I hope someone's got some ketchup."

18 JANUARY 1990

THE STAR 19

t.v. Guide

Programmes of Jordan Television from 20 to 26 January

ENGLISH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

8:30 - Annie McGuire (The Fried Shoe): Annie's father returns to the United States after a self-imposed 3-year exile with grandiose plans to launch his theatrical career and reconcile with Annie's mother.
9:00 - With the Courage of Her Convictions: Nima Tannous (Interview)
9:30 - Classical Music
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - Feature Film: My Father, My Son: Starring - Keith Carradine, Karl Mullen and Michael Horton. A feature film which recalls the painful and appalling memories of the Vietnam war. The story talks about the incredible after effects of that terrible war.

SUNDAY

8:30 - Who's the Boss?: Three Teens and a Tony.
9:10 - The Struggle for Democracy (Documentary): (Whither Democracy?) - In today's world, with its vast nuclear arsenals and the widening gap between rich and poor nations, can democracy survive? The final programme takes stock, examining three recent experiments in democracy - not in the northern hemisphere, but in the southern hemisphere.
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - Game, Set & Match: Episode Eight - Bernard Samson is astonished that his wife Fiona, a traitor who has defected to the East, can manage to slip into Heathrow airport so daringly. Fiona has made him an offer. If he will stop pressing KGB Major Erich Stinnes to join British Intelligence, she will agree to leave their children unmolested in England. If not...! The threat is real - and so is that from M16; Samson must turn Stinnes, to prove his own loyalty. If not...!

MONDAY

8:30 - Empty Nest (Comedy)
9:10 - Kane and Abel: Just when it appears that no investor will come forward to bail out the hotel chain, Abel is approached with a mysterious offer. All the funds necessary will be provided, and Abel will become owner of the chain when the loan is paid off, but the benefactor's identity must be withheld. Abel agrees, convinced the anonymous investor is a rival, but caring hotel owner.
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - Cassidy - Ep. 4: Charlie struggles for her life seeking protection from Alice's father, who is determined to avenge his daughter's murder

TUESDAY

8:30 - Mr. Belvedere - Marsha's Job (Comedy)
9:10 - The Real Charlotte - Ep. 4: More surprises on this drama series.
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - Hunter - Return of White Cloud: An antique dealer's murder puts Hunter and McCall on a tricky and complicated murder chase.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 - Baby Boom: "J.C." - The Man (Comedy) - J.C. gets her wish to live a day as a man, and she discovers how differently people treat her.
9:10 - Natural World (Documentary) - Vanishing Earth: Part 2
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - Guts & Glory: The Rise and Fall of Oliver North: Part one - The story of the life of Oliver North since his graduation from the naval



First Among Equals, Friday at 10:20

academy in 1964, to the Vietnam war and his attempt to commit suicide.

THURSDAY

8:30 - A Different World (Comedy)
9:10 - Basketball
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - Feature Film: Separate Tables - Starring, Julie Christie, Alan Bates. Faithful film version of Terence Rattigan's two one-act plays about the guests of British seaside resort and their individual dramas.

FRIDAY

8:30 - Coach: I'm sorry I told you my wife was dead. (comedy)
9:10 - Thirtysomething - "No Promises": Elyn must face some difficult truths about herself and her complicated relationship with her parents in the "no promises" episode of "Thirtysomething."
10:00 - News in English
10:20 - First Among Equals - Ep. 4: Their 1970 General Election triumph has put Simon Kerslake at Number Two in the Home Office. While Charles Seymour, now a Tory whip, volunteers to help steer through parliament the bill taking Britain into Europe. The new political climate is absorbed by the four contenders.

FRENCH PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

5:00 - Le Grand Echiquier: A variety programme - Today Jacques Chancel and Andreodocaux try to answer the important question of French language abroad.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - Sirococ: A documentary magazine. We follow Maurice Kraft as he attempts to conquer a live volcano.

SUNDAY

5:50 - Tel Pere, Tel Filis: A comedy series featuring Jacques Balutin.
6:30 - La Chance aux Chansons: A variety programme by Pascal Seran.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - Sirococ: A documentary magazine. We follow Maurice Kraft as he attempts to conquer a live volcano.

programme for children by Jacques Martin his guest this week: Elsa.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - Aujourd'hui en France: A cultural magazine

MONDAY

6:00 - Nick, Chasseur des tetes: A drama series featuring Hippolyte Girardot. Nick tries to locate a Soviet scientist who fled to the West and save his career.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - The Weekly Sports Magazine

TUESDAY

5:30 - Lucifer (4): A programme for children - The magnificent horse is led to the slaughter house for injuring his owner but his little friends will not leave him.
6:00 - Des Chiffres et Des Lettres: A game show.
6:30 - L'appart: A comedy series
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - Aujourd'hui en Jordanie: A local Magazine by Saleh Hadi.

WEDNESDAY

6:00 - Quand la Chine S'eveille (1): A documentary about social life in China and the different aspects of life there in medicine and agriculture.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - French Varieties.

THURSDAY

6:00 - Tele Pere, Tel Filis: A comedy series featuring Jacques Balutin.
6:30 - La Chance aux Chansons: A variety programme by Pascal Seran.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - Science a La Une: A documentary

FRIDAY

5:00 - Des Chiffres et Des Lettres: A game show.
5:30 - V Comme Vengeance: A French film. She was good to everyone so why did they turn their backs to her.
7:00 - News in French
7:15 - Bolivie le Train a Volle: A documentary.

Hollywood Stars speak



Jodie Foster:

Creating controversy

From the teen prostitute in "Taxi Driver" to the gang-rape victim in "The Accused", Jodie Foster has created a gallery of hard-edged, tough-talking females. It's an unusual turn of events for a young woman who speaks fluent French, can theorize about literature and holds a bachelor's degree from Yale University.

Now 27, Jodie began performing at 3 in suntan commercials. She kept busy in television series and Disney movies, then created a sensation in "Taxi Driver". After completing college, she returned to acting as an adult. "The Accused" won her the Oscar as Best Actress of 1988.

Jodie received unwanted publicity following the assassination attempt on the life of President Reagan. The assailant, John Hinckley Jr., sought to impress her by his act. The actress refuses to discuss the case.

Q: Did the intensity of "The Accused" drain you emotionally?

A: I think that's actually the biggest surprise; that we would shoot things that were potentially kind of evocative and quite difficult. And I came home fairly happy every day because it was good work.

Q: When you read the script what were your first impressions?

A: I suppose the first thing I thought was it's a very juicy part. It's an actress' dream to play this character Sara Tobias. I read it a long time ago, a long time before they did it. It was "in development" and there weren't any actors attached to it or any directors or anything like that. It changed quite a bit from there. I knew it needed a lot of work. Not that it wasn't a wonderful script; but precisely what's good about it is that a lot of it is subtextual. There aren't characters that are simply for exposition to tell you who everybody else is. "Oh that woman! She's insecure and neurotic." I mean there's none of that. Everything is very subtle about it. And the characters were drawn very subtly so there was a lot of work to be done.

Q: Is there any Jodie Foster in the part?

A: Oh sure. I don't think there's any such thing as creating a character where you're not there somewhere. I mean it is my gestures, and my nose (laugh) and face and eyes. I mean they're all of that. There's only so much of that that you can change. That's your physical language.

Q: The rape scene is already controversial. And I'm sure some reviewers will say it's too much. How do you feel about it?

A: I don't think it's too much. I think it's real. And I don't think it's titillating. I don't think it's exploitative. I think if it wasn't there, you'd miss it because I think it pretty much explains things in a lot of ways. I don't think it would be fair to have this film talk about it the way it does and does not see. There's a lot of judgment going on with the audience as well as the characters in it.

Q: What's in the future for you?

A: Well, I have a film coming out that Dennis Hopper directed and he's acting in it as well. It should be exciting. It's a very good film.

I never know when I'm going to work. It's usually two or three weeks beforehand that I get hired onto a picture, so I'm pleased when I'm not working. You know I'm not one of those people that's pulling his hair out when he doesn't work. I like it. I like my time off. I gather my wits. I get all that confidence and health back so that I can chink away at it when I work, especially something like "The Accused." I was really exhausted in every way at the end of that. I took some time off to get it all back together.

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	64127/12
Arab Republic of Yemen	642381
Australian	637246/7
Austrian Embassy	674750
Bahrain	664148
Belgian	675683
Canadian	666124
Chilean	661336
Cyprus Honorary Cons.	642653
Czechoslovakian	665105
Danish Consulate Gen	622324
Finnish Consulate	623443
French	641273/4
German	641351
German D.R.	819351/2
Greek	672331
Hungarian	674916
Indian	637262
Iraqi	639331
Italian	638185
Consulate Gen. Ireland	630878
Japanese	672486/7
Yugoslavian	665107
Kuwaiti	675135/8
Libyan	666118
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/823165
Indonesian	675911
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Consulate	637164
Pakistani	622787
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatar	644331/2
Romanian	663161
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	669745/6
Spanish	622140
Sudanese	644251/2
Swedish	669177/9
Swiss	686416/7
Syrian	641076
Tunisian	674307/8
Turkish	641251
United Arab Emirates	644369
United Kingdom	823100
United States of America	644371
USSR	641158
Delegation of the EEC	668191
UNDP	668171/7
UNRWA	669194/8
Far East Cons. off. (Taiwan)	671530
UNICEF	629571
Con. of Sri Lanka	645312

Airlines

Arab Air Cargo	674191/95
Aeroflot	641510
Air France	666055/67825
Air India	675888/9
Air Lanka	655377/651799
Alliata	625203
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Australian Airline	67380/670128
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Airways	641430
Chinese Airlines	637380
Cathay Pacific	624363
Egypt Air	630111
Emirates Airlines	662141/678321
Gulf Air	633606/656616
Hungarian Airlines	639295
Iberia	637827/644036
Iraqi Airways	628596/628598
Japan Air Lines	630879
K.L.M.	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Kuwaiti Airlines	630144
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Luftansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
M.E.A.	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
PIA	625981
Philippine Airlines	670155
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	637380/667028
Sabena Belgian Airlines	675888
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	606439
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	662111
Swair Air (G.S.A.)	642943
Syrian Air	629831
Taiwan Airways	622147
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	639102
Yemenia Airways	628175
Yugoslav Airlines	604911

Queen Alia Airport (08)53200

Diary

Cultural centres

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7
American Centre Library	641520
British Council	636147/8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Gothic Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	665195
Hussein Youth City	667181/5
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.A.	664251
Amman Mun. Library	637111
Univ. of Jordan Library	834555

Cinemas

Concord	677420
Rainbow	625155
Opera	675573
Plaza	674111
Philadelphia	634144
Nijoum	675571

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713

Rent a car

Shakhshir	668958
Al-Jabal	606669
Kada	665161/665153
Al-Labadi	813554
National	639197/8
Nebo	816792
Petra	605501
Rabbit Amman	672424
Al-Kimal	639861
Al-Samer	771707
Satellite	625767/621471
Star	604904
Tiger	671931
Trust	673312
Al-Waha	674105
Abu Dege	644642/644906
Anin Jarrar (Avis)	670498
Anutan	666327
Arabian	641350
Avis-Jarrar	08/51000
Budget	604230
Dons	669970
Dirani	666061
Europcar	601350/80
General Services	674100
Gulf	660902

Hotels

Amman	
Philadelphia	663100
Marriott	660100
Regency	660000
Jerusalem	665094
Intercontinental	641361
Ambassador	665186
Commodors	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tycho	661114
International	841712
San Rock	813801
Alia Gateway	(08) 51000
Amra	815071
Plaza	674111
Aqaba	
Holiday	2426
Al-Manar	4341
Al-Carar	4331
Coral Beach	3521
Aquamarina	4333
Aqaba	2056

Emergencies

Amman governorate	91228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence (Raid)	271292
Civil Defence Dept.	661111
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood Bank	775121
Civil Defence rescue	630341
Police rescue	621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390
Electric Power Co.	636381/4
Water complaints	897467
Queen Alia Airport	(08) 53200
RJ Flight Info.	(08) 53200

Hospitals

Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Khaled Maternity	644281/6
Akheh Maternity	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian-Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marks	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Anal Hospital	674155

General

Jordan Television	77311/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	605800
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	121
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Repair service	623101

The Star

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IDD Codes for DIALING

Algeria	213
Argentina	54
Buenos Aires 1	
Australia	61
Adelaide 8	
Brisbane 7	
Canberra 62	
Melbourne 3	
Perth 9	
Sydney 2	
Austria	43
Vienna 222	
Bahrain	973
Belgium	32
Antwerp 3	
Brussels 2	
Brazil	55
Rio de Janeiro 21	
Brasilia 61	
Bulgaria	359
Sofia 2	
Canada	1
Ottawa 613	
Chile	56
Santiago 2	
Cyprus	357
Nicosia 21	
Czechoslovakia	42
Prague 2	
Denmark	45
Copenhagen (Inner) 1	
Copenhagen (Outer) 2	
Ecuador	593
Quito 2	
Egypt	20
Cairo 2	
Eire	353
Dublin 1	
Cork 21	
Finland	358
Helsinki 0	
France	33

Paris 1	
Germany W(FRG)	49
Bonn 288	
Greece	30
Athens/Piraeus 1	
India	91
Bangalore 812	
New Delhi 11	
Bombay 22	
And all cities with area codes beginning with 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, & 8.	
Indonesia	62
Jakarta 21	
Italy	39
Rome 6	
Iraq	964
Baghdad 1	
Japan	81
Tokyo 3	
Kenya	254
Nairobi 2	
Kuwait	965
Korea	82
Seoul 2	
Libya	218
Tripoli 21	
Lebanon	961
Beirut 1	
Malaysia	60
Kuala Lumpur 3	
Malta	356
Mexico	52

Crossword Puzzle

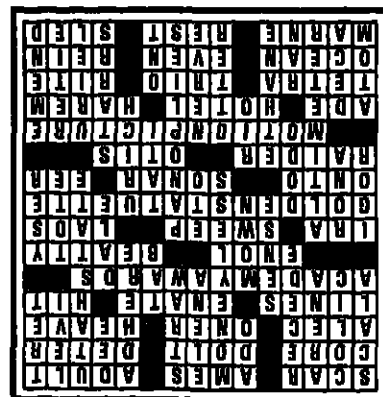
ACROSS

- 1 Rocky place
- 5 LA city
- 9 Grown-up
- 14 Inner part
- 15 Nerd
- 16 Turn aside
- 17 Temptation
- 18 Beaut
- 19 Ho's partner
- 20 Things to memorize
- 22 Related maternally
- 24 Big success
- 25 Oscars
- 26 Chemical compound
- 28 Actor Warren
- 32 A Gershwin
- 34 Use brooms
- 38 Vientiane's land
- 39 Oscar
- 43 In the know
- 44 Submarine locator
- 45 Always to poets
- 46 LA griddle
- 48 Singer
- 51 Oasir
- 52 recipient
- 57 Fruit drink
- 58 Lodging place
- 60 Saraglio
- 61 Aquarum fish
- 63 Small combo
- 65 Ceremony
- 66 Indian e.g.
- 67 Tied
- 68 Bridle strap
- 69 Fr. river
- 70 Take ten
- 71 Kane's "Rosebud"

DOWN

- 1 La —, Milan
- 2 Baby problem
- 3 Where the action is
- 4 Move back
- 5 Bustle
- 6 Without a sou
- 7 Ms Verdugo
- 8 Soda sipper
- 9 Stick
- 10 Actress Ruby
- 11 University of Logan
- 12 Dolly's last name
- 13 Waste allowance
- 21 Logic
- 23 Check
- 28 Cut like the lawn
- 27 Valley
- 30 Lug
- 31 Fr. river
- 32 Stravinsky
- 33 Author Jaffe
- 34 Pilot's instrument
- 36 WWII war zone
- 37 Full suite of armor
- 40 Extinct bird
- 41 "Mon Oncle" star
- 42 TV's Spenser
- 47 Gaseous hydrocarbon
- 48 "— Grande"
- 50 Ringo and Brenda
- 52 Water mammal
- 53 Courage
- 54 Archangel
- 55 Fix shoelaces
- 56 Correct
- 57 Speak
- 58 Ten: pref.
- 62 Sped
- 64 Can. prov.

Solution



Sports Hall of Shame

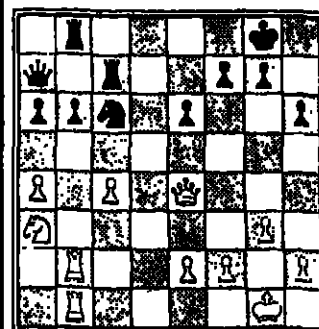
by Nash & Zullo



IN 1986, NEW YORK GIANTS KICKER SEAN LANDETA MADE THE MOST DISGRACEFUL PUNT IN NFL PLAYOFF HISTORY—MINUS 7 YARDS!

AGAINST THE CHICAGO BEARS, LANDETA TRIED TO PUNT FROM HIS GOAL LINE, WHIFFED THE BALL AND THEN WATCHED HELPLESSLY AS SHAUN GAYLE SCOOPED IT UP AND TROTTED IN FOR A TOUCHDOWN.

Chess



From a game at Smolensk, USSR, 1984, White (to play) has the initiative with pressure against a weak pawn, but material is level and there

looks a long way to go. However, White next set a nasty trap which won quickly when Black failed to spot it in time. The double puzzle is to find (a) the trap and (b) Black's best defence.

Chess solution

1. Q1-P-B5! P-P7? 2. Q-K11 R-XQ 3. R-XR ch R-R2 4. R11-K17 repeats the queen with a win on material. 5. P-B5, P-Q14, 2. P-X-P. Q-X-R 3. P-K16 4. P-K1. R-R3 5. R-XR Q-B6 ch. R13-K12 6. K1-B4, K1-R4 is better for White but not a clear win.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): You are a doer and good at getting other people to work hard for your causes. Go ahead and accept a loan from a well-off family member. Athletic activities are favoured this week. There is a thin line between friendship and love now. Good financial news relieves anxiety. Working conditions should improve. Change your spending habits. Give romance a second chance.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Work at a swift pace this week. New leadership opportunities come into view. You get a chance to take over for someone who is unable to handle a special assignment. Romance is pleasing. A good weak for bargain-hunting. Avoid being rushed into romance if you do not feel ready. A new acquaintance could be the key to making a career change. Conferences and interviews should go well.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Certain financial goals may be unrealistic. Talk things over with loved ones. Something that looks like a bargain could be a gyp. You shine at a company meeting. Be prepared to move up! A family business that is in trouble can be salvaged. Be prepared to accept new responsibilities. Once things settle down, your relationship with a sibling will improve. Romance brings happiness.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Versatility is the key to greater success at work. If you want to be a winner, keep your nose to the grindstone. A contest of wills could put your job in jeopardy; back off. Give a family member the benefit of the doubt. Spend money on household comforts. Your loved ones are delighted by your romantic choice. A child needs greater freedom and privacy.

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug.): A challenge brings out your creativity. Talk openly about a personal problem that is affecting your work. A career move proves lucky. Follow your intuition where travel and romance are concerned. Financial backing is within your grasp. Obey your conscience; greed will bring regrets. Loved one could give you a taste of your own medicine. Own up to your mistakes. Give a child a goal.

VIRGO (23 Aug - 22 Sept.): Although get-rich-quick schemes will not work, a hobby may have commercial potential. Check it out. Do not push for a commitment if your mate is hesitant. Present a child with attractive alternatives. A new personal alliance will bring your luck. Protect your home and valuables when you travel. Think about joining a neighbourhood watch group. Romance pursues those who appear aloof. Avoid acting too eager.

LIBRA (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.): Show your independence this week and good things will happen. A coveted invitation is in the mail. You enjoy new peace of mind after reaching an understanding with a neighbour. Romance blossoms, too. A timely phone call opens important career doors. Those in medicine enjoy special success. If a job offer is made this week, take it. Observe all safety precautions when working with your hands.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.): Show a little more vigor but avoid acting pushy. Difficulties at home could get you down. Take immediate steps to correct a troubling situation. Admit past mistakes and vow to do better. New acquaintances can help your business and finances. A recent retiree is learning to adjust to a new phase in life. A phone call will help you protect yourself in a legal matter.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov. - 21 Dec.): A happy start can lead to great things if you show delicacy. There may be upsetting forces to reckon with. Before closing any kind of financial deal, consult the family. A full financial disclosure will pull the family together. Be guarded when discussing the situation with outsiders. Get promises in writing. See more of your friends this week.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec. - 19 Jan.): If family relationships have been seriously shaken, do everything you can to shore them up. A practical budget is a necessity. Remain wary of get-rich-quick schemes. A new pet brings great joy. Use tact with family, especially when certain you are right. There is no reason to make unnecessary purchases; discuss large items with your mate. A home computer could change your lifestyle.

AQUARIUS (20 Jan - 18 Feb.): Household problems could delay your arrival at work or school. A new admirer boosts your ego. You cannot afford to make any assumptions regarding financial responsibility. A friend has great influence. You are too possessive for your own good. Do not let jealousy stand between you and true love. A child needs immediate attention. You make a mistake if you ignore the situation.

PISCES (19 Feb. - 20 March): An amazing event gives you new appreciation for your loved ones. Go slow in introducing changes at work or home. Patience will pay big dividends. Do not rush your romantic partner. Swallow your pride and admit a mistake. People will respect your courage. Someone takes a casual romantic remark seriously. Watch your step. Extra money is available when you need it the most.

This week's child has a keen, penetrating mind and usually concentrates on one subject to the exclusion of others. These Sagittarians could become renowned historians. A love for wide open space makes these children restless if kept indoors too long. They thrive on change and dream of roaming the world, experiencing things firsthand. Although these Sagittarians have many acquaintances, they are highly selective when making friends. They are likely to have several romantic flings before settling down.

Comics

FRANK AND ERNEST

